

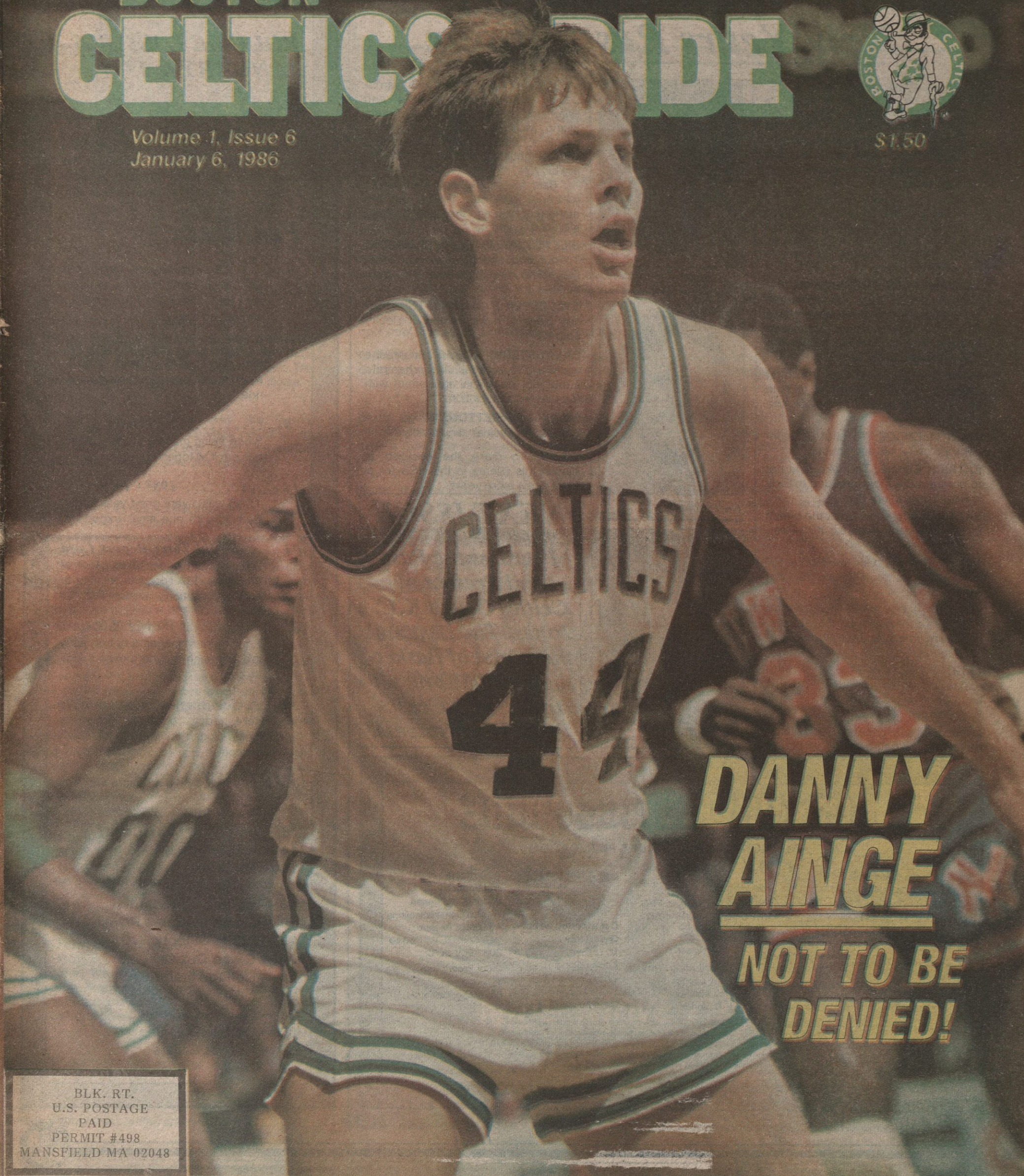
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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 6
January 6, 1986



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Some Mild Suggestions!

New Years Resolutions

By Tony Cooper

Upset about how 1985 went? Well, one of the great things about life is you always have a chance to make a comeback--or can at least make a vow to do so, ---next year.

That's otherwise known as a New Year's Resolution. Hypothetically and whimsically speaking, let's drum up some 1986 resolutions for those in the world of sports.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS: To play better than they have the first third of the season, so ex-Celtics Don Chaney, a truly class guy, can sleep at night. Not to mention further the chances of keeping his job.

MANUTE BOL: To change his first name to "Basket", gain 100 pounds and become a key figure on the Bullets.

JOHN McENROE: To shut up, concentrate on tennis and shut up.

PATRICK EWING: To make sure not to contract the most dreaded malady in New York-- injury-itis.

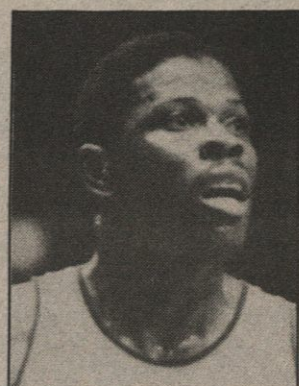
PAT RILEY: To show up at the bench for a Laker game wearing Kurt Rambis' hand-me-downs.

KURT RAMBIS: To show up at the airport wearing clothes swiped from Pat Riley's closet.

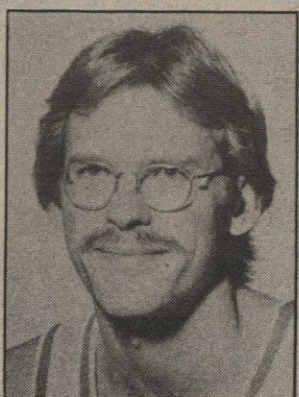
WILLIAM (THE REFRIGERATOR) PERRY: To throw a touchdown pass, play point guard for the Bulls and gain 50 pounds.

CELTICS AND LAKERS: To give the opposition a 10-point lead to give them a better chance of winning.

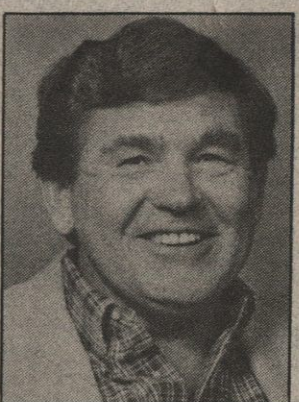
SPUD WEBB: To play center in a game against Manute Bol, Chuck Nevitt or Mark Eaton.



Patrick Ewing



Kurt Rambis



Bill Fitch

CHRIS MULLIN: To follow Warrior coach John Bach's directive and relax for once. After a shooting slump, Mullin did extra shooting after practice, then followed that regimen with weightlifting and riding a stationary bicycle.

Said Mullin, perhaps the world's foremost gym rat: "I'll cut out the stationary bike and the weights, but I still want to shoot."

BILL FITCH AND RALPH SAMPSON: To put and end to the rumors that they're feuding by becoming room-mates.

SYLVESTER STALLONE: To cancel any plans of more Rambo or Rocky sequels.

DAVID STERN: To grow a mustache again and to successfully orchestrate a mutually beneficial agreement with the players association.

MARY LOU RETTON: To go on a diet, both physically and visibly.

DR. J: To make the decision to display his talents in the NBA for at least a few more years.

NEXT ISSUE

MAILED JANUARY 13, 1986

Features the Past and Present of Celtics Coach K.C. Jones, The Best and the Worst of Basketball in 1985 and all the regular Celtics Pride Departments.

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Danny Ainge has blossomed into a legitimate NBA All-Star candidate. This Cover photo by Steve Lipofsky demonstrates the intensity that Danny plays with.

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Ask Red Auerbach



QUESTION: Foul shots seem to be getting more "automatic" each year. Why not move the foul line back four or five feet?

Scott Randall
Boston, MA

RED'S ANSWER: That's like saying, "Why don't you move first base back three feet?" or "Why don't you raise the hoop another foot or two?" or "Why not widen the goalposts in football?" Everybody's trying to change the game, everybody wants to go down in history as being the one who made the suggestion that is going to change the game. It's stupid; the game of basketball is working pretty well right now, and we don't need any major changes.

QUESTION: What is the rule on bringing your camera to a Celtics game? Can I use my flash?

Dwayne Irvin
Swansea, MA

RED'S ANSWER: You can't use your flash, but you can bring and use your camera. You don't really need a flash. Our photographers tell me that if you use a fast film -- asa 400 or 1000 -- you can get good shots. Obviously, we don't allow the flash to keep the players from being blinded during play.

QUESTION: When visiting teams come to

Boston, do they bring their own team physicians to take care of injured players?

Stevie Duncan
Norton, MA

RED'S ANSWER: No, we provide our physician. They bring their own trainer on the road, but the home team's physician is responsible for treating the players on both teams.

QUESTION: Why don't the Celtics give Vincent, Kite, Carlisle and the other subs more playing time? Wouldn't that prepare them better in case you have an injury?

Alan Grosse
Warwick, R.I.

RED'S ANSWER: There's no question about it, but the pressure is on to win, and if you think you can do better with players like McHale, Bird, Parish and Dennis Johnson, you play them and don't worry about playing time. Playing time is something that's always discussed, but a good coach doesn't care about playing time; all he cares about is winning the ball game. Playing time is an ego thing for the players involved; the main concern of all of our players should be contributing to victories of the team.

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

Tony Reis
Taunton, MA

QUESTION: Do you think that the Denver Nuggets and the Houston Rockets could be the only teams from the West that could give the Los Angeles Lakers a hard time this season?

RED'S ANSWER: Yes, I think that makes sense. As of now, they're probably the two best teams in the Western Conference next to L.A. Of course, if they ever put it together, I think that Portland's got a shot to be included in there, if they start jelling on all cylinders, with Vandeweghe, Thompson and all the rest. You can't necessarily judge by their great performance in beating us in Boston last week, but that does give you an idea of how good that team can be.

QUESTION: This year, the Celtics and the Lakers seem to be head and shoulders above the other teams in the NBA. Could you compare the starting and backup players of both teams?

Lior Zohar
Muttontown, NY

RED'S ANSWER: I don't know that the two teams are really head and shoulders above the rest. I kind of doubt that. People think that, but they're taking a lot for granted based on previous years. There are lots of good teams now. You've got Detroit, Denver, Milwaukee, Houston -- you've got a lot of good basketball teams. To win, you've just got to pray that you don't get hurt. If you don't get hurt, we've got as good a chance to win as anyone. It's a matter of momentum, a matter of rhythm. Whichever team starts out with the rhythm in the playoffs, they're going to be hard to catch.

QUESTION: How does it affect players when they read things about themselves like drug accusations? When players read such things, does it inspire them to play even more intensely? Finally, what can be done to stop such trash from being written?

Terry Reed
Hyattsville, MD

RED'S ANSWER: Nothing. The only thing you can do if fans don't like the stuff that's being written is to write letters to the editor. You know, we can complain about it, but there's no way that anyone can stop a writer from writing anything he wants.

THE CELTICS HAVE A NEW NUMBER



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Executive Editor:
Tod Rosensweig

Managing Editor:
Porter C. McKinnon

Associate Editor:
Robert Schron

Associate Editor:
Tony Cooper

Associate Editor:
Jeffrey Twiss

Photo Editor:
Steve Lipofsky

Production Director:
Fred Woodcock

Graphic Coordinator:
Denise Woodcock

PUBLISHER:
Robert F. Coppage

SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS:
Joan Waag: 203-966-6092

Artist:
David Olsen

Contributing Writers:
Terry Lyons

Contributing Writers:
Red Auerbach

Contributing Writers:
K.C. Jones

Contributing Writers:
Glenn Ordway

Contributing Writers:
M. L. Carr

Contributing Writers:
Eddie Gillooly

Contributing Writers:
Larry Donald

Contributing Writers:
Wilma Mahoney

Contributing Writers:
Dave Zuccaro

Advertising and Editorial:
Porter C. McKinnon

Advertising and Editorial:
Weston Communications

Advertising and Editorial:
49 Locust Avenue

Advertising and Editorial:
New Canaan, CT 06840

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Hands On: Basketball's Professional Approach

Marketing research has indicated some of the sources of why professional basketball is popular in the mid-1980s. Some of the reasons include: unpredictable outcomes, regardless of one team's lead; a visible sport which allows viewers to see all ten players within a reasonably confined playing space.

Other reasons have included the grace and athletic skills of the basketball players and their ability to compete in a "non-contact" sport (much of the time).

The uniforms are sparse and the athletes are performing, as they are, a mature audience's delight.

One was disposed to inquire about the hands of the professional basketball player. "We play in a 'hands' game," Joe O'Toole, Trainer of the Atlantic Hawks comments. "We pass, shoot, defend, accomplish things, with our hands."

"I tape with my hands," Trainer O'Toole points out.

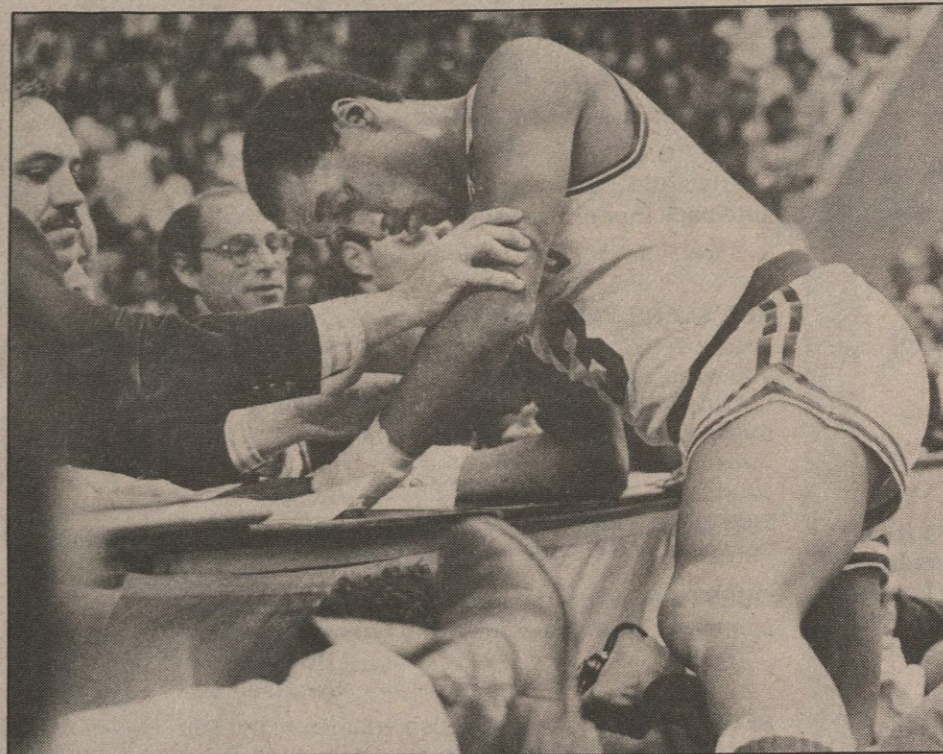
Players point with their fingers, of course. Popularized in the sixties by the finesse-oriented University of North Carolina, pointing fingers at teammates who made a key assist became a way to build teamwork. The player who scored pointed his index finger at the player who made the pass.

Bill Walton of the Celtics, animated, excitable, and turned on by the perfectly executed basketball play, is a precise pointer. The point, the communication, the gesture are clear, even...exciting. In the past Walton had been accused of pointing fingers at less-inspired teammates, but this isn't what's being described. In perhaps another season of seasons for the spectacular Walton, it's positive pointing in Boston.

If basketball is graceful combat, football is armed warfare. Recently Center Jeff Bostic of the Washington Redskins football team snapped the football to his quarterback with one hand--because the other hand was encased in a plaster of paris cast. Comparable wrappings in basketball are gauze, medical tape, and ace bandages. Football players wear gloves in the winter and baseball players are presently adorning the hand garb for batting, fielding, and even running.

NBA players have not found use for that type of equipment--at least on the surface of things. Yet after the Celtics had nearly wasted an 11-point lead against the Atlanta Hawks in Hartford, Connecticut on recent cold December night, Coach K.C. Jones observed, "We had our mittens on. Maybe that's why we turned the ball over so much."

Were the C's fingers bound together inside the imaginary mittens?



Injuries to the hands are a prime concern.

Or were the Celtics getting cold hands when they had the opportunity to win?

Conjecture of course, and K.C. broke into a somewhat fatigued coach's grin. Mittens aren't in; tape and wristbands are frequently used by players in actual games and practices. At a recent practice, the following players used tape, ecetera: Dennis Johnson: Taped right wrist; bandaged left middle finger.

Bill Walton: Taped wrists and taped left pinky.

Larry Bird: Taped right index finger.

Robert Parish: Taped right pinky.

David Thirdkill: Wristband right hand.

Players use wristbands to prevent sweat from interfering with their ability to handle the ball. Tape is generally used to protect against injury although Joe O'Toole described another use.

"Cliff Livingston (Hawks' Forward) uses tape on his fingers to prevent an injury when he goes to dunk. He says 'I'm going out there to dunk' so he doesn't take chances."

Hands are all over the game. A pet Dennis Johnson play: tricking the ballhandler into a one step lead past DJ, and the Celtic reaching back to deflect the dribble for a steal. Writers, fans, and broadcasters have endlessly speculated about how great the great shooter Bird would be if he hadn't broken his right index finger in a post senior year softball game in Terre Haute. Julius Erving's soaring dunks originate from extremely large hands.

"Open Hand" and "Close Hand" are code names for Jones's clinging team defenses. Offensively? "Thumb Up", "Thumb Down", and "Thumb on the Side", and the Celtics begin

playing failing. Now, in full view of the groaning Garden, Parish stares at his thumbs, fingers, palms. Why do their functions desert him, at the worst of moments?

How important then, are good hands? Bird consistently praised the inside game and catching ability of guard Dennis Johnson. "He catches everything I pass into the post." Bird indicated. In jest, Bird rolled his eyes when asked about the All-Star Kevin McHale.

Laughs Assistant Coach Chris Ford, "Kevin's a great player, and he has some of the worst hands on the team. He still does OK."

It's not hands, it's concentration," insists Greg Kite.

Hands--the angel and the devil of the pro player. A major reason for Robert Parish's superior outside shooting from the center position is; he has large hands, hands which allow him a controlling cradle for the jumper.

But in practice, defending against Bill Walton, Parish jammed the pinky on one play. Then he had it bent back on the very next possession. Grimacing, Parish slowly ambled off the court and Melchiorre applied ice and a small ace bandage to the damaged digit.

How many times had that happened this season, he was asked. "Eight." Parish looked at the twisted tape, the white-cold ice.

"Maybe this will help. Help the hands," he mused. But moments later, he applied some medical tape and went back out to play.

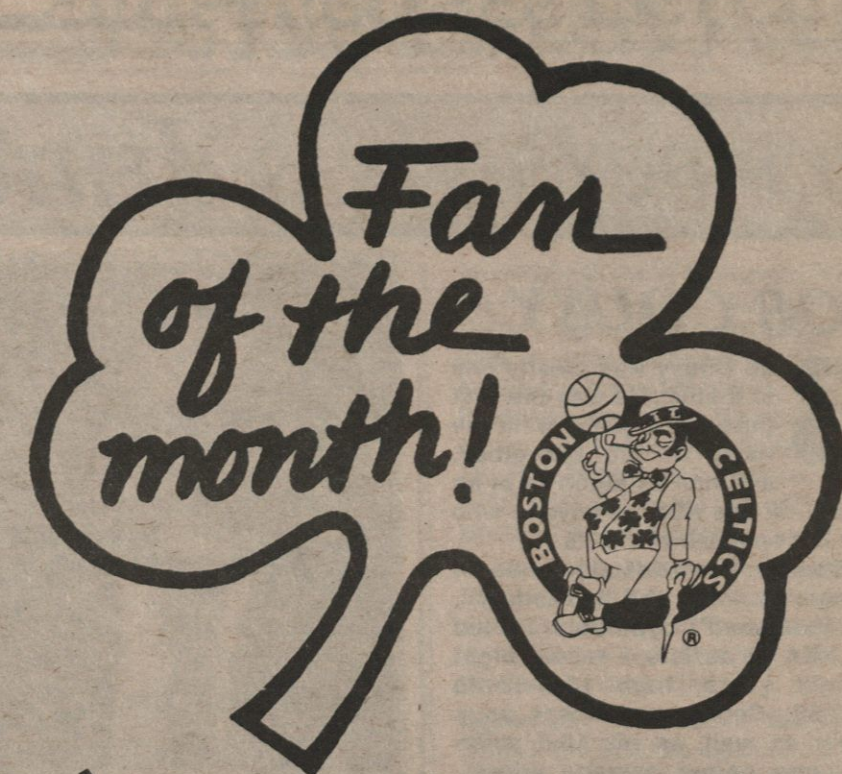


Robert Parish Named Midas Player of the Month

In a ceremony prior to the Celtics December 6th game against the Portland Trailblazers, Robert Parish was named the Midas Player of the Month for the month of November, 1985. Presenting Robert with a gift from Midas Joe Robinson from Arnold and Company, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Rivollier of Midas, and Len Myers, from WRKO Radio.

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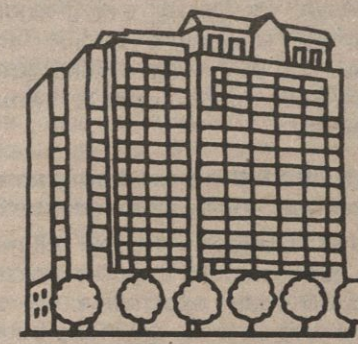


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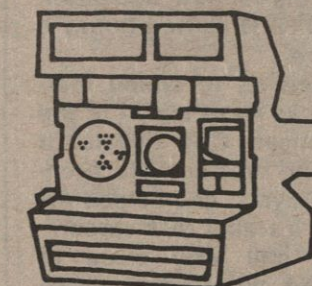
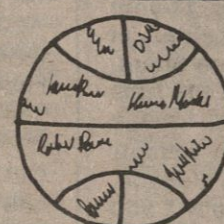
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Innerview

BOB COUSY

Bob Cousy was clearly one of a kind. He was the first pure point guard to hit the world of pro basketball, and had as much of an impact on the NBA as anyone who ever put on a pair of shorts.

Cousy was described as a "magician with the basketball", and that wasn't hyperbole. He led the NBA in assists a record eight straight years, from 1951-52 to 1959-60. Cousy was adept as a scorer as well, as his 18.5 point-per-game career average attests. No doubt about it, Cousy was a tricky and gifted player.

"Bob Cousy is the Boston Celtics," Boston owner Walter Brown once said. "He was the most spectacular, inspiring and greatest clutch performer I have ever seen in any sport. There will never be another Bob Cousy. He revolutionized the game. And like Babe Ruth, no one can ever take his place."

After Cousy's brilliant 13-year career ended with the Celtics in 1962-63, he tried his hand at broadcasting, landing a job with the ABC TV network. From there, Cousy embarked on a successful college coaching career at Boston College, leading the Eagles to three NIT and two NCAA Tournament appearances. BC was 117-38 during Cousy's six-year tenure.

Cousy went on to spend four-plus seasons as head coach of the Cincinnati/Kansas City Royals. It was Cousy who drafted Nate Archibald for the Royals, and helped Archibald begin a stellar NBA career.

Cousy is still very close to basketball and the Celtics these days. He's color commentator on the Celtics telecasts on WLVI-TV. Celtics Pride recently chatted with one of Boston's all-time greats.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you first break into broadcasting?

COUSY: Someone from ABC called me after I retired and asked if I wanted a job as a commentator. I went to New York and worked without a contract for three years. I went into coaching, and that took me out of broadcasting. When I got out of coaching, I went to the Celtics.

It was just a normal transition. People assume players become coaches when they retire. Now, they become broadcasters.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you feel during your first telecast with ABC?

COUSY: If it had been a subject not familiar to me, I would have been



Cousy: Maintains his Credibility.

terrified. I didn't have that reaction. I remember going to work with Chris Schenkel, and he said, "Bob, I don't know a goddamn thing about basketball. If you ever want to say anything, tap me on the leg and go." We did that for three years. I never got any input one way or the other. The ratings were low, and I didn't get much critique. The network just wanted to get the games on.

I feel more pressure today. I've developed a certain pride in wanting to do well. The telecasts are of a regional scope. So there's more self-imposing pressure.

CELTICS PRIDE: You're obviously one of the key figures in the history of the Celtics franchise. Is it tough for you to be objective in your telecasts?

COUSY: My first responsibility is to the viewer. If you can't establish credibility, you become a shill and whatever you say has no meaning. Gil (Santos) and I say on the air we're doing a Celtics broadcast, but when the team or players are playing badly, we'll point that out without hesitancy.

We lean toward the Celtics and make no bones about it, since we're broadcasting to an audience that's 75-80 percent Celtics fans. We'd be foolish to do anything else. When I worked on a network, we'd be constantly aware of balancing things out. Here, our emotions are with the Celtics as far as who we'd prefer to win.

On TV, if you insult the intelligence of the viewer, you'll lose credibility. Even though I get letters from English teachers telling me to get out of the business, the audience does make allowances for jocks. I tell it like it is, that's my aim and my strength in establishing a relationship with the viewer. Most comments I get are that fans enjoy our telecasts, because we tell it like it is.

CELTICS PRIDE: Boston doesn't lose very often. Does that make your job easier?



Talking basketball is easier.

COUSY: Without question. Otherwise, you become an apologist. We had a couple of tough years before Larry Bird got here. On the one hand, we wanted to be objective, but on the other hand, we didn't want to be destructive. If the team is going through the motions in 48 minutes, that's when you earn your salary--you have to make it palatable to the viewer. I get offended when a team is down by 20 points with three minutes to go, and the guy says, "Anything can happen." That's an obvious ploy to retain viewers. It makes me switch the channel quicker.

When you're broadcasting a team that wins 12 games, who's kidding who? This is where it becomes sensitive--you don't want to make foolish statements, but you want to maintain credibility.

CELTICS PRIDE: Does being an ex-player help you as a broadcaster?

COUSY: Obviously. People tell me I do a good job. I tell them it's amazing what 35 years experience will do. That's why ex-jocks are in the booth, despite what Mr. Cosell says of the "jockocracy". If you stick a jock and a professional broadcaster in a machine and measure their voice, grammar and intelligence, the broadcaster would obviously come out ahead. But you're there to entertain fans--they'd rather hear an ex-player tell you what happened, even though it may be in broken English. It heightens the interest. That's the point--to make it more interesting. The ex-jock gives it a behind-the-scenes dimension. It's a benefit to hire ex-jocks.

CELTICS PRIDE: How do the players deal with you?

COUSY: Writers have a tough job--they have to remain objective and keep the goodwill of the players. The way I handle it, I don't need to have the goodwill and cooperation of the players--I don't need it to perform my

job. We try to minimize contact with the players. We try not to fly on the same plane, we avoid taking the team bus if we can and we don't drink beer together. We have no social contact with 'em. This helps keep a clearer perspective. If you develop a social relationship with players, it affects your work.

CELTICS PRIDE: How would you describe your years as a Celtics player?

COUSY: It was initially very frustrating, then very satisfying. Many players never get to the finals--was on six championship teams. All players who've been with the Celtics should be thankful that this is the organization they've been associated with. No one in professional sports has sustained a dynasty as long or effectively as the Celtics.

It's satisfying when everyone talks about the Celtics mystique. But you've got to create a winning tradition before anyone gives a damn about a mystique.

The Celtics mystique means people. Usually, everyone hates the coach and management and everyone else. We had a close relationship with the owner and coach. We were fortunate.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did it feel coaching against the Celtics when you were boss of the Royals?

COUSY: We didn't have much of a team. Pride and competitive spirit came to the fore--I wanted badly to win. That's the way I approached that challenge. Being in Boston heightened that I wanted the team to do well. I wanted the team to appear well-coached. I didn't want them to look like a bunch of garbage men. I wanted artistic success.

Because of my association with the team, it was always a meaningful game. But if the team didn't do well, I didn't feel as badly as I would have, had it been against someone else.

CELTICS PRIDE: In 1969-70, you played seven games for the Royals. Why?

COUSY: That was a promotional thing. We were trying to promote the team and sell tickets. We were a young team, and I thought having an old-timer on the bench would be therapeutic and would minimize pressure. It wasn't a big deal, really. I thought if I could play five or six minutes a game, it would help the team.

CELTICS PRIDE: How come you've never returned to coaching?

COUSY: It's a hell of a lot easier talking about basketball than coaching it.

Celtics Diary

David Thirdkill: End of the Odyssey?

David Thirdkill returned to the Celtics after the team released Sly Williams during the first week of December.

As writer Dan Shaughnessy astutely observed in the *Boston Globe*, Thirdkill wisely did not burn bridges after being cut by the Celtics October 22; Thirdkill had been nosed out in the stirring battle for the final spot on the team's roster (He had competed with Rick Carlisle and Carlos Clark. Carlisle triumphed over Clark and Thirdkill).

The 6-7, 215 Thirdkill is a special blend of size and quickness. He is similar physically to Satch Sanders, or Cedric Maxwell; in his best moments he is doggedly pursuing offensive threats like James Worthy, or retaining possession of loose balls (like former Celtics player and now Celtics coach Chris Ford).

In addition, he displayed surprising scoring ability in Pre-Season.

Thirdkill's travels have been chronicled: Phoenix selected him on the 1st round of the 1982 draft, then traded him to Detroit before the 1983-84 season. Detroit waived the player in November 1984, and he signed later last season with first, Milwaukee on a 10-day contract basis, before moving on to San Antonio at the end of the year.

When the Spurs made several player moves during the summer, Thirdkill was released once more.

Yet, talent evaluation and actual player productivity are at best unpredictable. If Thirdkill was a run-of-the-mill NBA "body", why did he appear in five San Antonio playoff games last season? Why has he been recalled each time he appeared through? And by respected coaches such as Chuck Daly and Don Nelson?

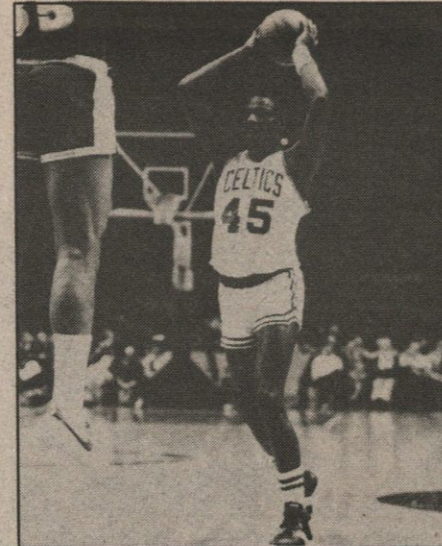
The former Bradley collegiate has been able to produce in limited amounts of game playing time. A rebound, an assist, some points, and defense--these are at times critical contributions in a sport which most times defies statistical analysis.

Thirdkill is a private and intense young man. He recalled the past several weeks of this season for the *Celtics Pride*.

October 20-22. Boston. We concluded the pre-season with a road trip to Indiana and Los Angeles and in my opportunities, I did well. I was able to score a basket for our last lead in the game in Indianapolis. Against LA, I made 6 of 7 shots in 9 minutes in the first game, and played strong defense against Worthy in our final game, a victory. I didn't play much until the third game of the pre-season.

You have to play as hard as you can in the minutes you're able to get. That's my belief.

The competition for the final spot



From the NBA to the CBA...

on the team was close. I think Rick Carlisle, Carlos Clark, and I all played well--but this is a business. A team can only keep twelve players and a decision had to be made. When K.C. did cut me, I walked out of the office at Hellenic College determined not to let it get me down. It's like any job, I told myself. A lot of people go through this every year in pro basketball.

October 30. Boston Garden. I watched the Celtics opener feeling strongly that I would play more ball. Mauro Penaggio, the coach of the Bay State Bombardiers, contacted my agent, Joe Napoli. They reached an agreement and I planned to go to the Bombardiers camp in late November.

It was my intention to see how the Celtics looked, how another team looked in that first game. My mind was set on playing in the CBA and on waiting for another NBA team to call.

No other team would call.

November. St. Louis. I went back home to St. Louis and worked out with my old high school coach, Marvin Neals. There were also afternoon games at St. Louis University and the games were important for conditioning purposes.

I love the game and keep working at it. Even though events don't go as planned in your lifetime, in ball, and other things. There I was--back in my old high school gym (the familiar bleachers, backboards, the memories)--preparing myself physically and mentally to return to pro ball. I have developed into a professional basketball player. No going back. You continue to work hard at what you do.

During this time I consulted with my college coach, Dick Versace. We finished first in the Missouri Valley my senior season; I played forward with Mitchell Anderson on the same front line. The conference has been traditionally formidable. Several NBA players who were my contemporaries played in the Valley: Antoine Carr,



...AND BACK AGAIN.

Cliff Levingston, and Xavier McDaniel (Wichita State); Paul Pressey and Steve Harris (Tulsa); Lewis Lloyd (Drake).

I've been friends with Coach Neals for a long time. But there was no advice that could be given. My intention was to maintain playing shape for the Bombardier camp.

The time passed quickly. Movies like "Agnes of God" and "Jagged Edge" were entertaining. Reading the newspapers and keeping up with the box scores and transactions were daily activities. I mostly trained, however.

November-December. Worcester. I arrived in the Bombardier camp prepared and in good shape. We trained at the YMCA in Worcester and stayed in the Centrum Inn out there. Not much talk about the past--rather, more running, drills, scrimmaging. Other players in camp included Kevin Williams, Fred Bryant, Tony Barnett, Delaney Rudd. The routines were effective and simple: workouts, casual dinners, enough sleep, practices, and learning the plays.

All this time I was continuing to read the Boston papers to keep informed about the Celtics. But I wasn't looking ahead and I wasn't wasting time on regrets. I was prepared to play in the CBA. Everybody's got to start somewhere. I approached that possibility with this mental strategy: I've played three seasons in the NBA and it's important to sustain that intensity and mentality. Work just as hard. If you want something bad enough, you'll work hard to get it.

These thoughts helped my mentality to work hard. I'm not taking a back seat to anyone.

December. Bangor to Boston. I was in Bangor, Maine ready to open the CBA season when, an hour after I arrived at the hotel, my agent called. The Celtics had contacted him--Boston had released Sly Williams--and told him they wanted to have a

meeting with me in Boston the following morning. I didn't know what the Celtics wanted; just because you have a meeting doesn't mean you have a position on the team. I flew out to Boston and Sam Vincent picked me up at the airport. It was difficult for Sly. He's been a prominent pro player in the past and it was very difficult for him to sit and play a role.

December 5. Boston. I met with the coaches and Red Auerbach and we agreed to a contract. Their instructions were for me to come out and play hard when I do get the time.

December 6. Boston Garden. I played five minutes against the Trail Blazers concluding that losing contest. Three points and three rebounds and not much celebrating.

Although the players are the same as in training camp, it's different to play with them after the plays have been established for six weeks. It will take a little while to become familiar with the (4) new plays and the personnel.

I'm still new here and I don't know too much about the Celtics. Every organization is different. Therefore every team is different. It's a matter of being here long enough to adapt.

December 11. Boston. We defeated Atlanta in Hartford last night but the bench had a shaky outing. With less than a minute to play, K.C. sent me in (with Greg Kite, Vincent, and Carlisle); leading 112-101, our responsibility was to protect the ball and close it out.

But the Hawks had been coming after us all night and they surged. Two steals, two lay-ups and a three-point field goal in fifteen seconds. K.C. had to replace us--almost before we had flexed our muscles. Atlanta went after the starters, too, but Dominique Wilkins missed a layup and we got the win. I could just shake my head and stay ready for my next chance.

After the game I met up with Carr and Levingston. They're playing well, and it was fun seeing them. I'm hoping things go better for me next time I play against them, though.

December 12. We practiced today at Hellenic College, taped instead of having a lighter workout as we usually do after games. We're attempting to regroup after the serious hand injury suffered by Dennis Johnson last night. We won easily and I played most of my time against Otis Thorpe, who's bigger and heavier than I am.

I'm a small forward--I'll run, defend, and play with those responsibilities in mind. He posted me up--and I tried to beat him down court in the transition. I finished with 9 points in 17 minutes.

We'll need to compensate for Dennis's loss; I'm prepared to contribute.



Fulfilling High Expectations

Danny Ainge: Emerging Into A Bonafide Star

By Tony Cooper

When Danny Ainge was playing at Brigham Young, the scouts were simply enthralled by him. In many circles, he was considered to be the second coming of John Havlicek or Jerry West.

Of course, that was going a bit overboard. And this is no knock on Ainge, it's just that Havlicek and West are one-of-a-kind types. No one will ever be like them.

What Ainge is, however, is a very good backcourter. After a couple of up-and-down seasons, the 6-5 veteran has taken his place as one of the top guards in the NBA. The Ainge-Dennis Johnson combine could be the best guard tandem in the league.

Ainge, who averaged 12.9 points a game while shooting .530 from the floor last season, is playing equally well this season. His scoring average is hovering around 13.0 points a night, and he's made about 53 percent of his field goal tries. Ainge is also handing out five assists every night.

"Danny is blossoming into an imposing off guard," Coach K.C. Jones says. "He has gained the respect of opposing defenses with his blend of shooting, defense and quick-jumping rebounding."

"There's no pressure on me. When we win, it's usually because of the other guys."

Talk to Ainge about his maturation into a first-class NBA guard, and two factors he'll cite immediately are playing time and confidence.

"I'm just blending in," Ainge says. "It's a lot easier when you get a chance to play. There's nothing more frustrating than getting pulled out of a game when you make a mistake. That's tough to deal with."

"If I make a mistake, K.C.'s not going to take me out of the game. I'll get a chance to redeem myself—make a shot or the pass. He has a lot of confidence in me and my teammates have a lot of confidence in me. That makes things much easier."

Ainge also pointed out playing for the Celtics had added to his game.

"It's easier when you have these great players like Bird, McHale, Parish and Walton," Ainge says. "There's no pressure on me. When we win, it's usually because of the other guys. The pressure is on them, I'm just out there having fun."



Danny Ainge: Just out there havin' a good time.

"In the past two years, I've played okay basketball. I've played better as time has gone on. I'm feeling more comfortable as I'm gaining experience. I'm playing good, not great. But I am shooting the ball well."

Shooting is what Ainge does best. He shot .526 from the field during his four-year career at BYU and is one of the few accurate marksmen from the outside the Celtics have. In fact, Boston scout M.L. Carr suggests that Ainge is as good a shooter as there is in the league.

"My teammates have confidence in my shooting," Ainge says. "They give me the ball. I'm very confident about my shooting. I always have been. People have questioned that, but I've always felt I was a good shooter if I have the opportunity. The guys give me the ball and make plays for me."

Ainge looked like anything but a dead-eye marksman when he joined the Celtics in 1981-82. He shot a frigid .357 from the field that rookie season, but upped that to .496 the following year, when he won a starting job.

Ainge's percentage fell back down to .460 in '83-84, when his playing time was cut in half. He's been much more stable since he has found a secure place in the starting five.

"I didn't expect to play a lot my

"The past two years, things have been fantastic."

first year, with the players the Celtics had," Ainge says. "Then, I started and went back to the bench—that was a drop. I said, 'Whoa, what's going on?'"

"The past two years, things have been fantastic. I'm playing with a great bunch of guys, things couldn't be better."

Ainge's history seems to indicate that he shoots better when he starts. Does Ainge view being a reserve in a negative light?

"I don't mind coming off the bench," Ainge says. "It's playing two or three minutes at a time I don't like. 'Guys like Kevin (McHale) got the respect of a starter when they come off the bench.'"

Johnson, Ainge's partner in the backcourt, enjoys the respect of all players, coaching and everyone else. Playing with someone of Johnson's caliber has enhanced Ainge's output tremendously.

"DJ is a complete guard," Ainge

says. "He's just an all-around player. We both share the responsibilities of bringing the ball upcourt and guard certain people. We're interchangeable on offense and defense."

Despite the presence of Ainge and Johnson, the Celtics felt they needed some guard help, so they acquired Jerry Sichting in a trade with the Indiana Pacers and drafted Michigan State guard Sam Vincent on the first round. Ainge wasn't worried that either Sichting or Vincent would

cut into his playing time much.

"They were looking for depth and drafted Sam for the future," Ainge says. "M.L. (Carr) retired and Quinn (Buckner) was traded. That left two spots available. When they got Jerry, they told me my role wasn't going to change. Jerry would be the third guard."

"Sam is going to be a great player. But I'm not worried. I'm working hard to keep my job."

No one can ever accuse Ainge of



"I do whatever I have to do, to do my job."

slacking off on the court. One of his most endearing qualities to the Celtics is his non-stop hustle. And belying his baby-faced look, Ainge doesn't take any guff from anyone. He isn't afraid to get in an opponent's face, as shown in the highly publicized tangle he had with Atlanta center Tree Rollins a few years back.

"I play with enthusiasm and intensity," Ainge says. "I do whatever I have to do to do my job. Some people don't like me bumping them. They see this little, skinny guy bumping them, and they don't like it."

Ainge likes playing for Jones, moreso than he did for Jones' predecessor, Bill Fitch. But that doesn't mean Ainge harbors any ill will toward Fitch.

"People often give Fitch a bad rap for hindering my progress," Ainge says. "I disagree with that 100 percent. Fitch started me in my first full year in the league. He didn't play me in clutch situations, which was depressing."

"I enjoy playing for K.C. It's more comfortable in practice, off the court and in airplanes. K.C. likes people to be themselves. We've talked a lot, and I have a better relationship with him."

Ainge is a much better basketball player than baseball player, which he didn't believe a few years ago. It's well chronicled that Ainge after his senior year at BYU, said he'd pursue a major-league baseball career and eschew the NBA. That statement dropped his stock considerably. The Celtics gambled and took Ainge on the second round, as a league's 31st pick. If not for baseball, Ainge would have been one of the first five players selected in 1981.

Ainge did play three years with the American League Toronto Blue Jays, compiling an uninspiring lifetime average of .220. After the 1981 season, Ainge decided to forget baseball and turn his attention to

More Danny on Next Page

SELF PORTRAIT



DANNY AINGE

BIRTHDATE AND PLACE: March 17, 1959 at Eugene, Oregon

OCCUPATION: Professional Basketball Player

FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER: Robert Redford as Roy Hobbs in

"The Natural" because he reminds me of myself

IF I WERE REINCARNATED I'D BE: I don't believe in reincarnation

IF I COULD BUY ANY CAR I'D BY A: Porsche 911 Targa

FAVORITE ALL-TIME TV SHOW: "Get Smart"

FAVORITE ANIMAL IN THE ZOO: Hyena

ENTREE I WOULD CHOOSE FOR MY LAST MEAL: Raw Oysters

because I haven't had the guts to try them ever before

THE FOUR GUESTS AT MY FANTASY DINNER PARTY: Richard

Nixon, Abbie Hoffman, Bill Walton, and Sly Williams. Then only

three would show up, and there'd be more food for me.

FAVORITE NBA CITY: New York

FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Tony Roma's, K.C. Jones' restaurant, so

maybe he'll give me more playing time

FAVORITE COMEDIAN: M.L. Carr

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION I'D BE A: Quarter-

back

HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAME: "Squirrel" and "The Blade"

FAVORITE DRINK: Milk

OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: Black Wool Overcoat I bought at

Desert Industries for \$3.50; I bought it in my freshman year at

Brigham Young but the coat is thirty years old.

I'D SPEND MY LAST \$10 ON: My phone bill, saying my last good-

byes. Either the phone bill, or on getting a (hair) perm so I wouldn't

have to worry about that

FAVORITE ACTOR: Laurel and Hardy (Chris Ford and Glenn Ordway)

I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Shoot (a basketball)



Continued from Page 9

hoops. It was obviously a smart move.

"I still hear about baseball," Ainge says. "I never live that down."

Actually, he is. When people think of Danny Ainge, he's no longer regarded as the guy who was a sub infielder for the Blue Jays, but as the Boston Celtics starting guard. And

Ainge Signs Contract Extension

The Boston Celtics announced that they have extended the contract of veteran guard Danny Ainge. Ainge, whose contract was to expire following this season, agreed to the new multi-year agreement. In accordance with team policy, no further terms of the deal were disclosed.

Ainge, who has started all 24 games for the Celtics this season, is averaging 13.1 points per game. Celtics General Manager Jan Volk said that "Danny has been a solid contributor for the Celtics. We are all pleased with the new agreement and feel it reflects our appreciation of Danny's contribution to the Celtics."

you can expect Ainge to make even more of a name for himself in the NBA IN THE FUTURE.

"I haven't reached my peak yet," Ainge says. "I want to get more confidence. I want to be more consistent."



Auerbach Honored in Hartford

Almost a year ago, he was the recipient of a weekend of honors from the Celtics and the City of Boston, most of which were designed to initiate fundraising for the Red Auerbach Foundation, a permanent endowment within the Boston Foundation to promote special athletic, recreational and youth development opportunities for boys and girls throughout the Boston community.

Nothing so elaborate took place at the Hartford Civic Center on Tuesday, December 9th. Still, the Civic Center and the City of Hartford chose a special and lasting way to express their gratitude to Red Auerbach -- by presenting him with a unique 3-by-2-foot brass plaque bearing his likeness, which was to be permanently fixed in the front entranceway of the Civic Center.

Presenting Red with this lasting reminder of his contribution to the Celtics' "home away from home" was Gerard Peterson, the Executive Director of the Hartford Civic Center and Robert K. Killian, the Chairman of the Hartford Civic Center Commission. The plaque was sculpted by Lloyd Lillie.

Speaking of Danny Ainge

Bob Ryan, The Boston Globe, 1984-85: The obvious change in Ainge's status was the trade that sent Gerald Henderson to Seattle. It was a dramatic show of faith on the part of Celtics management, and it meant that there would be no more excuses. Either Ainge was a quality NBA player with big-time poise, or he was a regrettable and expensive business error.

Jack McMahon, 1981: He's the Larry Bird of guards.

Alex Wolff, "Sports Illustrated": Ainge still considers the Blue Jays partly responsible for a controversial label. During the trial at which the Celtics tried to free Ainge from his baseball contract, then Blue Jays president Peter Bavasi testified that if Ainge were to abandon Toronto, it would be like "an ailing wife being left behind by her husband for some blonde floozy from Boston." Yet Ainge believes the Jays had given up on him as a player and were willing to let his image as a "contract breaker" develop, all in the hopes of prying some cash loose from the Celtics. (Toronto did eventually win a reported \$500,000 settlement). "The trial was traumatic," he says. "I don't think I'd have gone through it if I hadn't had the chance to play in Boston."

Red Auerbach: The big thing about Ainge is that he is an athlete. He's played football in high school, basketball in college and pro baseball. Like that in a player.

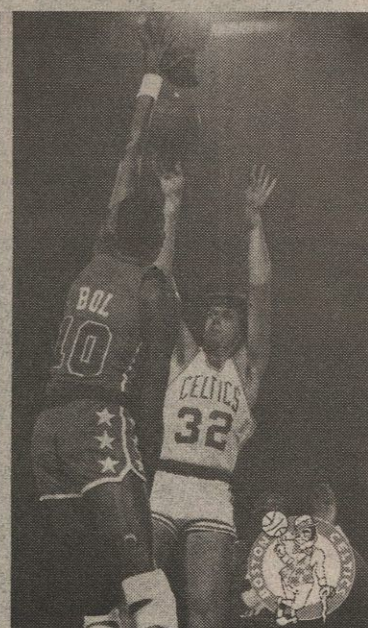
K.C. Jones: He plays all out. He's that kind of guy that you call "running wild." He's back on defense, catching up with the long pass, he's on the offensive and defensive boards, he's pushing the ball up, taking the outside jumper--he's just playing the total game, and I think that comes with the feeling you have about yourself.

Larry Bird 1985-86: Danny really came into his own last season. He's one of our best and most dependable players.

Michelle Ainge (wife): I think he has a fighter's reputation because he wants to win so badly. And he'll do whatever it takes. It's different at home. I even try to get him mad sometimes, but he won't do it. On the court, he's intense, but when it's over, it's over.

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K.C.'s Corner

My Role is to Poke the Collective Fire

We Are Developing as a Team

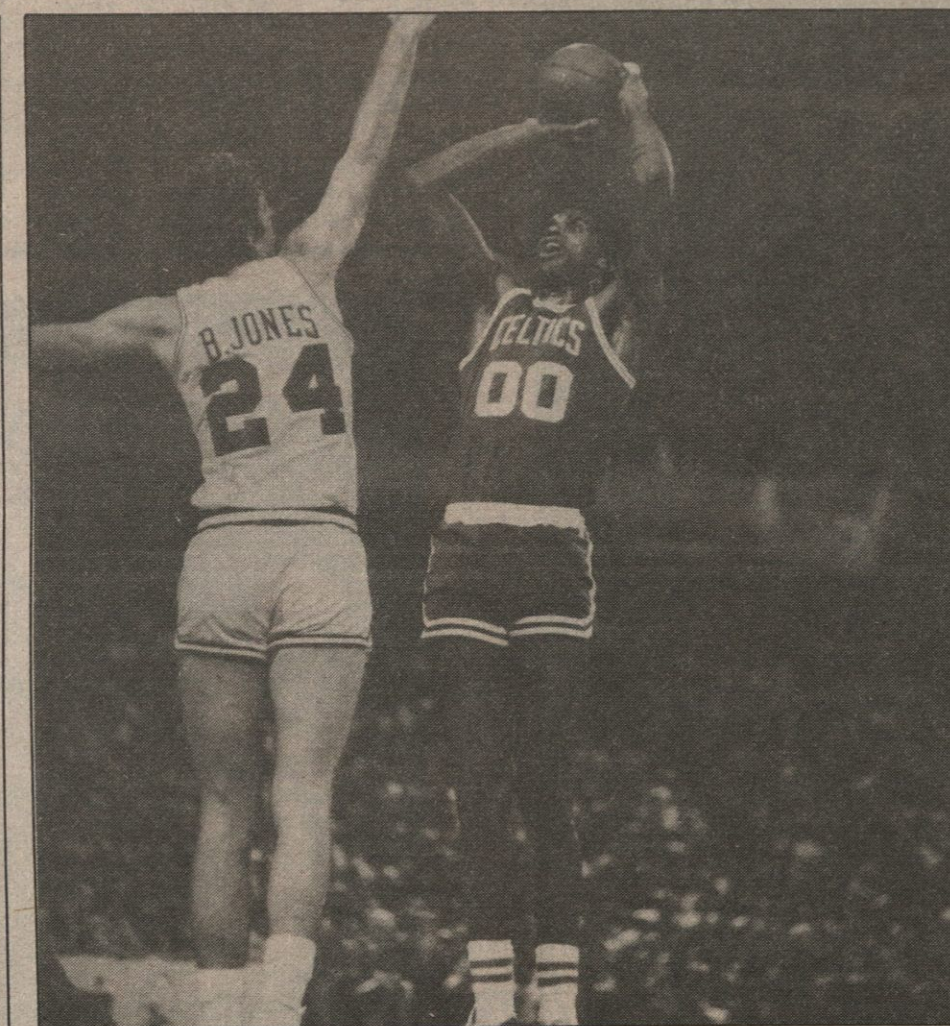
Moments after we had played our best game of the season, a December 11th 118-101 victory over the Sacramento Kings, I stood in the front of the locker room somberly staring at the white chalkboard. It was blank and it somewhat mirrored the way I was feeling. Dennis Johnson had hyperextended his thumb and it appeared for a time that we might lose him for as many as ten weeks. This had to be my most bittersweet victory as a coach.

We fortunately believe that the injury is not as serious as it first appeared. According to Dr. Tom Silva and Dr. Robert Leach, the thumb was bent back at the juncture of the wrist and bone. Fortunately, Dennis is almost back to full strength.

Our play to this point of the season has been extremely good. We are developing as I had hoped--a team. Each player is indispensable. Each man is supported by a strong foundation. Each guy gives back when it's his turn. The Dennises are supported by the Parishes the Vincents by the Wedmans. I believe this became clear during last season's playoffs. After Larry Bird injured his elbow--and was never the same from the Cleveland series on--critics thought us through. Cleveland and Detroit were waiting in the woods for the final ambush. I believe this is where the team stepped in with crucial support.

It continues to this season. Robert was outstanding, and then his play slumped. The guards have stepped in to lead the rest of the team. Dennis's play this season is 1st Team All-Pro caliber, and his backcourt partner Danny Ainge has arrived.

Our outside shooting was usually supposed to be a missing link. Later, immediately after last season's Gerald Henderson trade, Danny Ainge was supposedly our weak link. But no more; Danny's really flared. He's all over the court, he's firing the



Robert was outstanding, then he slumped.

pill, rebounding, and playing great.

When I became coach here, Danny was a 3rd year pro still struggling and searching. We used him off the bench and in some games I did not play him at all. This bothered him but he never lost confidence in himself. He finished the season on a high note, coming off the bench in the 7th game (1983-84) final against the Lakers and helped us win--the game and the championship. He went to Los Angeles that summer and improved further, and last season, we had ourselves a dynamite starting guard.

His play highlighted our important winning road trip through Milwaukee and New Jersey. He shot 9-11 in Milwaukee and 9-10 in New Jersey.

In Milwaukee: 6 assists, 4 steals. In New Jersey: 5 steals, two 3-point field goals.

Ainge is playing with supreme confidence and this is nice to see. He is one of our key shooters; this confidence is what a shooter needs. What also is unnoticed is he is always in position defensively. Because he is he is able to rebound, make steals, help out in the team's defense. He's put the whole thing together.

The trip to Milwaukee and East Rutherford, New Jersey was important. I don't pay much attention to winning streaks. I believe that this type of information is interesting reading and watching in the media, but as coach, I can't afford to be looking past the next ballgame, or

allowing myself to forget the last one. Besides, Portland wiped the winning streak out a few days later with scrap, hustle, and running.

In Milwaukee, we shot out to an early lead in a place where we usually have early problems. But despite our commanding position, they closed the gap and actually had the win in sight, with a 105-102 lead within the final 2:00. But we didn't quit--if we had quit, they would have won by 10. Dennis bailed us out with a tough jumper and foul shot on the three point play. Milwaukee scratched and fought, however. They are among the best teams in the league.

We played the Nets the following night and I believe they were waiting for us, ready to repeat their opening night victory. There was no letdown on our part. We played a complete ballgame--Danny's shooting, Bill Walton's rebounding and passing, Larry's moving without the ball.

The record -- 20-4 -- indicates what we've done. Our weapons are showing.

And it is a long season and it is a challenge for a coach to maintain team cohesion. There is a tendency for players to go off in their own direction (It happens to all of us, as humans.), the coach needs to step in and provide group direction. We purposely are a team of men who are able to motivate themselves and who want to be successful. I won't obstruct that. My role is to poke the collective fire.

There is a fine balance. A player must have a strong will to succeed and produce. But if a player becomes too concerned with his personal success or personal needs, this will kill the team attitude.

We made one player move during the past two weeks, releasing Sly Williams and returning David Thirdkill to the roster. Sly has talent and I respected his game. Yet when he went to Hartford as part of the recuperating process, we didn't hear from him. I put in calls. Sly did not return these. We waited weeks and then made the decision to bring David Thirdkill back. That's the end of that.

We expect some of the same efforts Portland and Atlanta came up with against us. Both teams hustled and defended, attempted to win an important game over the Boston Celtics. We have our own goals, however: we need to stay even with the Lakers, and maintain a strong lead in the East. Our schedule looms difficult, looking at an eight of eleven stretch on the road.



BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE



M. L. Carr

An appraisal of Danny Ainge

I've always thought Danny would be a great, great player. I said that when he first got here. His talent is really starting to come out. Danny is capable of scoring a lot of points. He'd be one of the high scorers in the league if he were on another team--the Celtics do most of their scoring inside with McHale, Parish and Bird. Danny really came into his own in the playoffs last year.

Danny's confidence has increased a lot over the past. He knows he's a legitimate pro player--he's playing with confidence. That comes with playing time. When you get consistent playing time, that brings out the kind of player you are. If you don't get the playing time, no one will ever know. Danny knows that he can make a mistake and not get pulled out of a game. It works that way on both ends of the floor.

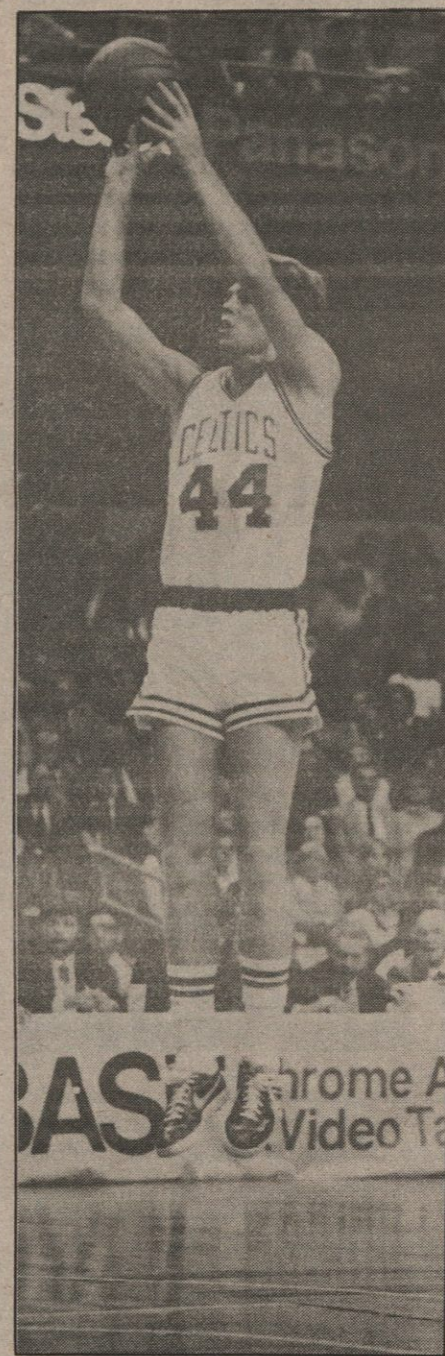
Danny's probably the fastest player on the team.

Danny isn't hesitant on offense or defense--he utilizes his quickness. He's so fast, and he uses it. I'd say Danny's probably the fastest player on the team.

He loves to play. Danny's is like a kid in a candy factory--I love to see that kind of enthusiasm. He's got confidence now. Danny knows when to pass and when to shoot.

The biggest thing about Danny is he believes he is the best shooter in the league. He believes he can hit that shot anytime. And as I said, he's probably the fastest guy on the club. He's also got good size for an off guard or a point guard.

Another thing that helps Danny is he's playing with a great guy in the backcourt in Dennis Johnson. DJ is one of the best guards in the league. Guys have to respect DJ.



Ainge believes he can hit.

Danny isn't afraid to get the opponents faces and be aggressive--I like that. When he first joined the Celtics, he wasn't sure about how he was supposed to play and how people would react. Now, if he pleases people, fine, if not, so be it. Danny's main goal is to help the

Celtics win games. He plays hard and isn't intimidated. I used to say, "Hey, Danny, you can't get in the Hall of Fame passing the ball all the time." I was joking.

When I was on the Celtics and Danny and I were both injured, we played a lot of one-on-one against each other. I told the press he could be a cross between Pete Maravich and Jerry West. Everyone said that was saying too much.

Danny is playing with confidence and the Celtics are winning. What more could you ask for? I see Danny as one of the top guards in the NBA. I say that without reservations.

Danny's stats won't be as good as they could be because of the type of club he's playing on. But as far as

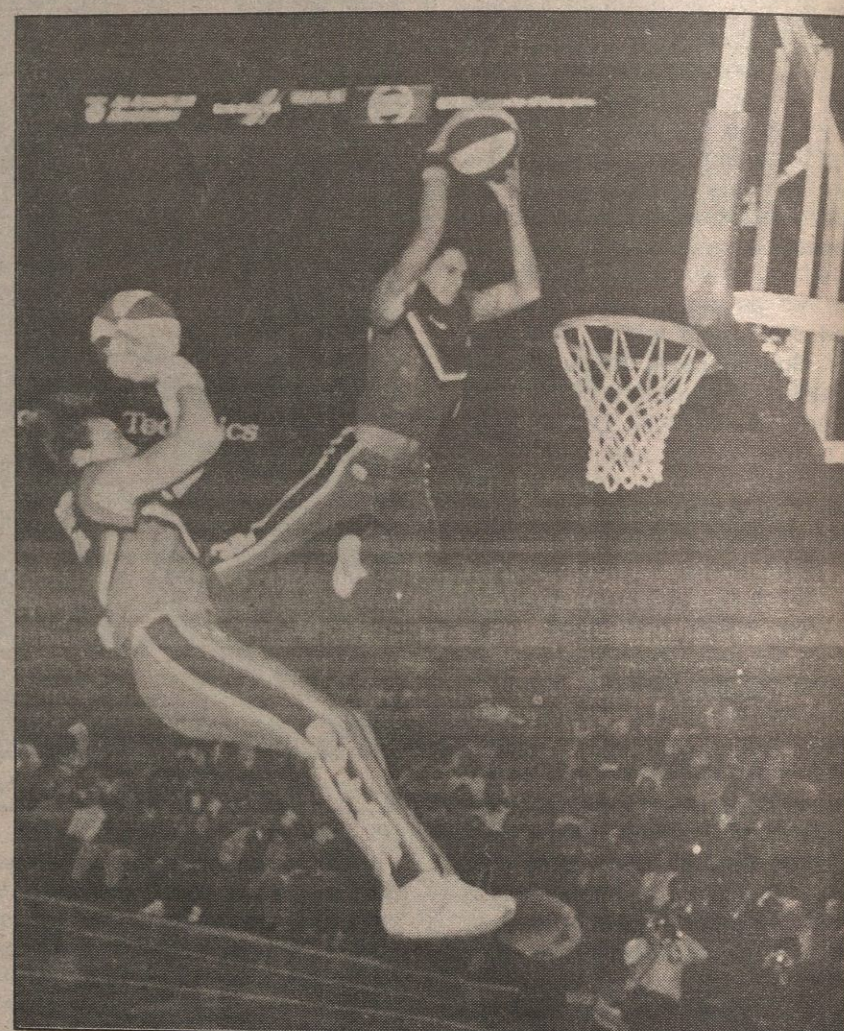
his confidence level, ability to hit the shot in crunch time and defensive prowess, he's right there with Maravich and West.

The only thing that bothers Danny is that he can't beat me at shooting three-pointers!

As far as the Celtics as a team are concerned, we have the talent there. K.C. Jones and his staff have done a tremendous job in defining the roles of each player and utilizing the bench effectively. Each guy knows what to expect.

I'm not worried about the Celtics peaking too early. They can't peak too early. You should play as great as you can all the time. If you play playoff caliber ball in November, you'll be that much better in April. There's no such thing as a team peaking too early. Winning becomes a habit. Can you win too much? No.

I'd finally like to say that Robert Parish has been playing as well as I've ever seen him play. His concentration level is there. He's also getting good support from Bill Walton and Kevin McHale.



Bud-Lite Daredevils Perform Before Boston Garden Crowd

Halftime of the Celtics game on December 6th against the Portland Trailblazers brought a special treat to the crowd. The Bud-Lite Daredevils, the world-renowned acrobatic basketball troupe, brought their unique brand of twisting flipping, diving, dunking action to Boston.

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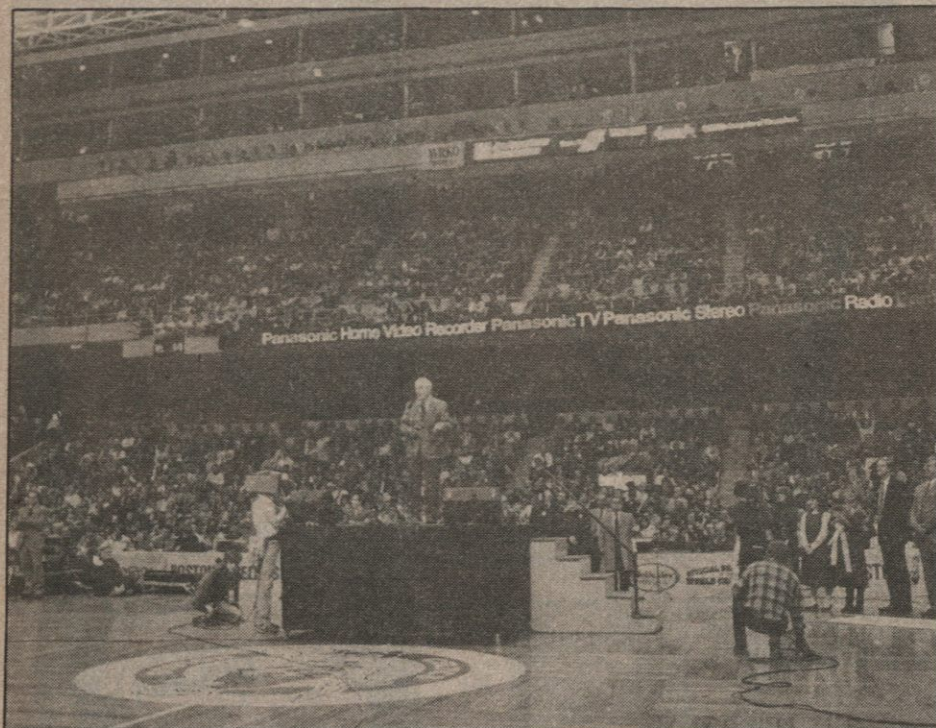
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 SPRINGFIELD 783-0736
 STOUGHTON 341-1744
 WALPOLE 668-7714
 WATERTOWN 926-1414
 W. ROXBURY 327-3000</p> | <p>*****
 WEYMOUTH 331-0805
 WOBURN 935-8135
 WORCESTER 799-7222
 WORCESTER 852-4160
 WORCESTER 799-0646</p> | <p>*****
 R.I. STORES
 CRANSTON 943-2244
 E. PROVIDENCE 438-5200
 JOHNSTON 861-7770
 WAKEFIELD 783-4977
 WARWICK 739-8424</p> | <p>*****
 WOONSOCKET 765-4435</p> | <p>*****
 CT. STORES
 BRISTOL 584-2235
 MANCHESTER 649-2885
 SOUTHTON 621-8908
 WETHERFIELD 721-0400</p> |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|

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1985: Year in Review



Red's Weekend was special for all involved.



Kevin scored 56 then helped Bird hit for 60.

The Celtics prospered during the calendar year. They triumphed over the league during the regular season for the fifth time in the past six seasons. Larry Bird again earned Most Valuable Player honors, turning in the best scoring season for a Celtic since John Havlicek averaged 27.5 ppg in 1971-72. The team again faced up against the Lakers in the finals.

Dennis Johnson and Robert Parish joined Bird and the coaching staff on the Eastern All-Star Team. Cedric Maxwell was traded; Bill Walton and Jerry Sichting were added.

These highlights and more are described as 1985 was ushered in with perhaps the grandest weekend in the history of the franchise.

January 4-6. Red Auerbach Weekend honored the indomitable President of the Celtics, Red Auerbach. Bob Cousy, Bill Russell, John Havlicek, and Larry Bird led the four eras of championship people who honored Red. Auerbach in turn paid tribute to the city of Boston. An Old-Timer's Game (Auerbach and Russell coached the teams of returning players) and major contributions helped signal the beginning of the Red Auerbach Foundation in Boston. Number Two was raised to Garden roof.

January 29th. For the second straight game, Larry Bird won the contest with a baseline jumper--performances made more remarkable because with each shot, the Celtics went from one point down (and a loss), to the resultant victory. This night, the C's defeated Detroit, 131-130. The previous score: 128-127

over Portland. Bird tallied 32 vs. the Pistons and 48 against the Blazers.

February 10. Dennis Johnson, Robert Parish, and Bird join K.C. Jones, Jimmy Rodgers, and Chris Ford as players and coaches on the Eastern Conference All-Star Team. The C's record: 41-9, four games ahead of the 76ers.

February 15. Robert Parish grabbed 22 rebounds at Golden State in Boston's 107-100 win, the most since December 1, 1981 when Parish hauled down 23 caroms vs. Indiana.

February 18. Bird's career-high 9 steals led Boston to a 110-94 win in Utah. He was one steal away from a quadruple-double (30 pts., 12 rebs., 10 assists). In this game, M.L. Carr injured his left leg; according to Ford, it marked the end of Carr's career.

February 19. Cedric Maxwell was placed on the Injury List after he had successful arthroscopic surgery on his left knee. It was to be an authentic achilles' heel: Maxwell complained of pain throughout rehabilitation, and the team differed. The star of Game 7 of the 1984 final series and the 1981 Playoff MVP would be traded later in the year.

February 26. The team signed Ray Williams, free agent guard from New York; they concluded the deal by sending 1985 and 1986 second round choices to the Knicks. Williams contributed: 20 minutes per game, 6.4 ppg and 3.9 assists, and played positively in most playoff games. Yet when the team drafted Sam Vincent in the 1985 selections, Williams was not offered a contract for the following season.

March 3. Kevin McHale leaped to

the top of the Celtic scoring record list...all-time. In a near perfect display of post-up scoring, the Minnesota veteran burned Kent Benson, Earl Cureton, and other Pistons' defenders for a temporary record 56 points (22-28 FG, 12-13 FT). Two nights later, McHale scored 42; the Celtics won both contests, 138-129 against Detroit and 110-102 over New York.

March 8. Boston defeated Dallas for the 10th straight time, 133-128. Boston has never lost to the five-year old Dallas team.

March 12. "M.L. Carr told me I should have gone for 60 because Larry is going to break 56," joked McHale in the post-game interviews after his record. Carr was prophetic; Bird scorched 60, against the Hawks, in New Orleans. Drives and jumpers from outside, the latter from long distance, highlighted the Bird display. Bird's and McHale's feats gained further credibility because they were achieved in the heart of a tense race for 1st place with Philadelphia.

March 20. Boston defeats Milwaukee, 107-105, pushing its lead to four games, as Dennis Johnson scored a buzzer-beater. The team had ignored Coach Jones' timeout signal when they rushed the ball upcourt, drawing his ire for one of the few times.

March 31. Scott Wedman scored his 11th consecutive 3-point shot, an NBA record.

April 11. The Celtics' final regular season win is a victory over 1st-round playoff foe, the Cleveland Cavaliers. The team finishes the regular season with the best record in the league (63-19).

They begin their playoff quest with the best-of-five series against the Cavs. After Detroit defeated the New Jersey Nets, the Celtics met the Pistons on their way to consecutive show-downs with traditional rivals, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

April 20. Bird tallies 30 in a superlative performance as the Celtics down the Cavs, 108-106. But there is a perceptible thorn dominating the rose. The super player's elbow is becoming increasingly painful--how much, and what the injury exactly is, is never precisely determined, probably even for the player. He misses Game 3, a 105-98 loss in the Richfield (Ohio) Coliseum. Wedman scored 30 as Bird's replacement.

April 23. Bird has challenged the rabid Cavs' fans, and he delivered. He scores 34, the Celtics win the game and the series 3-1, and Dennis Johnson is the defensive star, deflecting World Free's final second jumper.

May 8. The Celtics maintain the home court advantage by defeating Detroit, 130-123. Personal milestones: Bird's 43 his playoff high; Dennis Johnson's 30 his Celtics high; and M.L. Carr's final significant action, a clinging and inspiring defensive effort against white-hot Vinnie Johnson of the Pistons. Two nights later, behind Danny Ainge, the Celtics closed out this round by defeating Detroit, 123-113.

The Celtics win the set, 4-2, in a surprisingly physical contest. Combatants included Robert Parish vs. Bill Laimbeer and Danny Ainge opposing Kelly Tripucka.

May 18. The Celtics stunned the Sixers at the Spectrum. Surprises:

Robert Parish easily dominating the boards, Andrew Toney's ineffective play because of an injured ankle, Larry Bird's injury - caused altered shooting motion, the Sixers' apparent collective dis-unity.

Kevin McHale's career high 17 rebounds symbolized the Boston dominance inside. The Sixers were quick, but the Celtics proved to have too many tools for their arch-rival in playoffs.

May 21. Celtics long-time Equipment Manager Walter Randall passed away at his Revere home after a lengthy illness.

May 22. The Celtics, tight and tense, sneak by the Sixers 102-100 to win the series, again 4-1. "Nobody expected us to get through that series," Bird, Johnson, and Coach Jones lamented later. Nothing was heard from star of the Philadelphia series, Parish. Angered by several stories appearing in local and New England dailies, the Celtics center refused all interviews throughout the last six weeks of the season.

May 27. If the Celtics perceived themselves "bloodied" while swathing a path through the East, Los Angeles swept the West, like a first love befalls the willing suitor. Lakers' series' results: 3-0 Phoenix; 4-1 Portland; and 4-1 over Denver.

Yet the Celtics embarrass the Lakers in Game One of the finals, 148-114 in what is known now as the Memorial Day Massacre (the contest 3:35 game on Memorial Day). The Celtics set six records and shake the Western champs. What was frightening," recalled Laker Michael Cooper, "was that leads as big as their halftime lead (79-49) usually are cut down. But we couldn't get near them."

A perfect game.

June 3. One of two highlights for the Celtics in the rest of the series as Bird won his 2nd consecutive MVP.



The Celtics Draft contingent got their man.

announced in Los Angeles. Bird's peerless all-around game from the forward spot is highlighted by his 28.7 ppg. He has won The Sporting News honor, has scored his 10,000th career point. But the NBA championship eludes the Celtics this season.

June 5. Dennis Johnson scores the game-winning (4th) jumper to give the C's the needed road win, 107-105 at the Forum. But the Celtics are fatigued and injured. LA wins Game 5 in LA--in the new format which has the middle three games in the arena of the team in the finals with the worse regular season mark.

June 9. Down 3-2 in games, the Celtics play with emotion and intelligence, but miss too often early. Los Angeles wins the series, 4-2, by winning the final game, 109-102.

The best record in the league, Larry Bird was the MVP, Red was honored in many special ways, D.J., Robert and Larry were All-Stars and Bill Walton was acquired in a trade for Cedric Maxwell.

"This was the year the title was banned in Boston," joked MVP, 38-year old Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

The Celtics made several off-season moves to prepare for the present 1985-86. Because they made a trade with the Dallas Mavs, they were able to jump four spots in the college draft. Their choice: Sam Vincent of Michigan State. "Look at this," Celtics Assistant Coach told **Celtics Pride** on Draft Day. Ford showed the journal that Vincent was the player the team ranked first among college guards.

Throughout the summer grudge was fueled as the Celtics and longtime mainstay Cedric Maxwell parted ways. The team's target: Bill Walton. Maxwell refused to go to rookie camp, and the team moved intently to obtain the former UCLA (collegiate) and Trail Blazer title-winner. Boston also competed vigorously for Free-Agent Jerry Sichting, Pacers' Guard.

Boston completed its 1985-86 roster in a series of September and Pre-Season moves. On September 4, they traded Quinn Buckner to the Pacers for a 2nd-round draft choice. On September 6th, Walton came to the team, in exchange for Maxwell and all 1st round selection. Free Agent Dennis Johnson, after a surprising visit by the latter player to Indiana, was signed by the team's General Manager, Jan Volk. The

to discipline himself within the team's rules.

October 25. The Celtics opened the 1985-86 season disappointingly. They allow the Nets to extinguish a 17-point 2nd half Celtics lead, and the Green loses in overtime, 113-109 in New Jersey.

October 26. But the C's bounce back the following night in Cleveland, defeating last year's playoff nemesis, 105-100. Boston begins an 8-game winning streak and soars into 1st place.

November 9. Dennis Johnson scores 30 as the C's silence Detroit, 124-105 before 25,148 in the Silverdome. Johnson's play is a highlight of the early season.

November 27. Bird scores 47, proving he's struggling back from a troublesome back injury. Boston defeats Detroit and Vinnie Johnson, 132-124.

December 4. Walton backs up Parish with brilliant 13-rebound effort. In the midst of a 9-game winning string, Boston-130, Nets-111.

December 11. The team pushes its record to 19-3, second in the league by swamping Sacramento, 118-101 but the defeat is nearly costly. Dennis Johnson hyperextends his thumb, dangerously close to the broken wrist of two seasons ago. X-rays presently prove negative, but the team is wary as the year draws to a close.

Celtics regular year record: 82-22. Playoff Record: 11-8. They have played to 230 consecutive sellouts at the Boston Garden. With a solid draft in the future, and creative energies abounding in the front office and on the floor, there is every reason to think the veterans will receive the support that, for example, Bill Walton has provided Robert Parish, and Parish-Walton.

1985 was a very productive year.



Bill Walton became an early Christmas present for the Celts.





DANNY AINGE

Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

Bloodlines. Joey Cowens, younger brother of championship center David Cowens, is now starting center for the Centre College in Kentucky. He led Centre with 20 in the school's 1st game of the season...Bob Lobel, WBZ-TV's popular sportscaster, has begun calling the Green, "Super Team"...Northeastern grad and former Celtics draft choice (3rd, 1982). **Perry Moss**, signed with the Sixers after being released by the Washington Bullets...**Bill Russell**, WTBS's color commentator, said of the Lakers' Kurt Rambis: "He's the player who does the blue color work for a white collar pay."...

John Creed, Celtics Administrative Assistant in the public relations area, is recovering from knee surgery...**Dennis Johnson** was a guest and co-host on the morning show on WILD with Willie Maye, December 10th. "I wanted him to take over the entire show," commented Maye, WILD's Sports Director. "But he said he was too shy."...**Jerry Sichting** will begin giving clinics after January 1st for Fleet National Bank... **Scott Wedman** and **M.L. Carr** are appearing regularly on Public Service Announcements promoting the state's seat belt law...

Paul Silas' presence in the Boston Garden, a presence at once memorable and reassuring for local patrons during the 1972-76 years, is frequent now in his position as Assistant Coach of the Nets. If a team of Tom Chambers and Terry Cummings at Forward; Bill Walton, Center; and Al Wood and Craig Hodges at Guard sounds promising, it is the nucleus of the team Silas was developing in San Diego through 1983. His plan also included Swen Nater as a backup to Walton and Byron Scott from Arizona State in the 1983 draft...

Steve Jones, Portland Broadcaster and former Trail Blazer teammate of Walton, commented on Number Five's role in Boston: "I don't think we would have ever seen what Bill is capable of if he had stayed in the tough environment of Los Angeles. There, he would have been expected to play a great deal of minutes. The Celtics need the things he can give them. Here, he's not expected to be the driving force. Here, he's available for minutes, every night."

Asked if lack of minutes could be difficult for Walton to accept, Jones replied, "Winning motivates Bill, not the spotlight. He's not a great offensive player, like an Abdul-Jabbar. Like at UCLA and Portland, in Boston Bill is surrounded by superior talent. This complements him perfectly; he may be the consummate team player at



Scott Wedman is awarded his creation by Lenny Fornier.

the center position"...

Bird Sighting. According to the Captain, the Celtics are stronger this season because "we have more confidence that we can blow teams out. And we don't really know Bill (Walton's) game yet."

"But this is the regular season and our strength right now is we have ten guys playing. In the playoffs, it's unrealistic to expect ten to play. I haven't seen that since I've been in the league."...

Bob Cousy, observing the sag defenses usually employed against the Celtics, "Don't force the pass inside. When the guard reads the sag, it's best for the guard to drive, penetrate, or shoot with the defensive player five feet or more away."...**Mychal Thompson**, the Blazers' dominant offensive Center-Forward is a former college teammate of Celtics All-Star **Kevin McHale**. Thompson is not surprised by McHale's professional stardom. "Kevin has always been a confident player, from the moment he stepped on the floor as a freshman. That confidence has always been an important part of his game..."

Larry Bird has not fouled out of a game since November 12, 1980, a 93-86 win over the Washington Bullets in the Garden...

Peter May, respected journalist of the *Hartford Courant*, discovered a slight difference in the memories of Knicks' Coach Hubie Brown and star rookie-power player Patrick Ewing. According to Brown when the Knicks visited the Garden the night after Thanksgiving, Ewing hadn't practiced for two days leading up to that ballgame. When May verified this with Ewing, the player would not corroborate the story. "I practiced," said the Center...Do games between

the better teams in the league seem to be even more exciting, more interesting? According to **Jim Rodgers**, it's probably true. The reason is the best teams are the teams which have kept their players together the longest. Coaches can add different wrinkles quickly when guys have played together for a long time. They have a storehouse of knowledge to draw on. So for example, when teams are competing in the playoffs, coaches can dip back and retrieve ideas from past games without wasting any time."

Bird stated his respect for Walton grew as he learned that Bill made an attempt to visit all of his new teammate's home after Walton was traded to Boston in the summer...

Tommy Heinsohn, former Celtic, has been nominated for induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. It's puzzling to see he isn't already there, if contributions and achievements are considered. Heinsohn's credentials: All-American at Holy Cross; starting and indispensable forward on eight NBA championships from 1956-65 and a career scoring average of 18.6 (19.8 in playoff competition). These numbers do not indicate Heinsohn's playing strengths: clutch scoring, offensive rebounding, team personality.

Heinsohn insured continuity for the Celtics "dynasty" by assuming the coaching role after Bill Russell retired as player-coach in 1969. Tom redesigned the team, winning two more titles and Coach of the Year in 1973. Withstanding the disappointment of being fired as coach of the Celtics in 1977, he has continued to promote the game as Color analyst on CBS and Sportschannel in Boston.

This is an important sport in the culture; basketball affords exposure to talent, diversity of race, and leadership by reasonable and insightful people. Heinsohn is one of these leaders and his election to the Hall is overdue...

Celtics' record all-time is 1909-1098...Bill Walton played in his 400th NBA game, December 11...Sacramento's appearance in the Garden December 11th marked the return to New England of Providence College's **Otis Thorpe** and Boston College's **Michael Adams**... **Kevin Willis**, the highly thought-of young power forward of the Atlanta Hawks, is certain his former Michigan State teammate, **Sam Vincent**, will be a star in the league. "Sam was devastating in the Big-10, scoring, passing, penetrating. His game will only be helped by playing with the caliber of players who play every night in the NBA. His success might be two years down the road because that's the way the Celtics bring along their rookies. I think he could do it, sooner."...This may change, of course, because of Dennis Johnson's hand injury...

Jon Judkins, brother of the popular former Celtics **Jeff Judkins**, is a starter for Utah State...**David Thirdkill's** nickname in Boston: Third World...**Vincent's** brothers drove a Ford Blazer to Boston from Lansing, Michigan for the rookie to use during the winter. They made the trip in approximately twenty hours during the Thanksgiving holiday...**Vincent**, on Willis: "Kevin will be a force in this league as a power forward. He's always out on the break and he prepares himself for games. He's a strong believer in weight training...According to Bob Wolff, the sports executive who compares favorably to Red Auerbach is Sam Pollack, President of the Montreal Canadiens...Robert Parish grabbed his 5000th defensive rebound in early December, and **Danny Ainge** passed for his 1000th assist against Portland, December 6th...**Scott Wedman** assumed the role of assistant baker at Mehitable's Bakery in Ashland. Founder of the Ashland News Store, Lenny Fournier, presented the star forward with the fruit of his labor, a French Bread...Wedman expects to make another appearance in that community for M.A.D.D., Mothers Against Drunk Driving in the near future...The Celtics held their annual Christmas Party December 20th...The team was requested by the league to fly to New York on Christmas Eve, one day before their CBS contest against the Knicks...Most of the personnel, team members and staff people, expect to bring their families.

December 3, at Milwaukee
Celtics 112, Milwaukee 109

Larry Bird scored 10 points in the fourth quarter, leading the Celtics to their eighth straight win. Kevin McHale led all scorers with 29 points (on 11 of 16 shooting from the field) and Danny Ainge added 19 points. Bird scored 18.

Milwaukee had a chance to take the lead in the final minute. With Boston holding on to a 109-108 edge, the Bucks had the ball, but were unable to get off a shot before the 24-second clock expired. Then, a steal by McHale led to a basket by Dennis Johnson.

Paul Pressey paced the Bucks with 28 points. Terry Cummings had 25 points.

December 4, at New Jersey
Celtics 130, New Jersey 111

Bill Walton was one of the protagonists in this victory over the Nets. In 23 minutes, Walton scored 8 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

"He seemed to fit right in," Danny Ainge said of Walton. "He seemed really excited to be a Celtic. It was a gamble taking a guy like Bill, but then, it seems many of the great players

Celtics 112, Bucks 109

BOSTON MILWAUKEE

	G	FT	T		G	FT	T
Bird	8-18	2	18	Cmns	9-18	7	25
McHie	11-16	7	29	Pressey	11-19	5	28
Parish	1-7	0	2	Breuer	3-7	0	6
Auge	9-11	1	19	Hoges	2-5	0	5
Johnsn	7-10	2	16	Mncref	9-15	3	22
Waltn	4-4	1	9	Lister	2-5	2	6
Schng	2-5	0	4	Pierce	6-9	3	15
Wdrnn	5-12	0	10	Fields	1-2	0	2
Carlsie	1-2	3	5	Lamp	0-2	0	0
Kite	0-0	0	0	Mkeski	0-1	0	0
Total	48-85	16	112	Total	43-83	20	109

Boston...36 24 24 28-112
Milwaukee...31 27 27 24-109

Three-point goals—Pressey, Hodges, Moncrieff. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 40 (McHale 10), Milwaukee 48 (Breuer 10). Assists—Boston 31 (Ainge 6), Milwaukee 25 (Pressey 10). Total fouls—Boston 24, Milwaukee 21. Att—11,052

Celtics 130, Nets 111

BOSTON NEW JERSEY

	G	FT	T		G	FT	T		
McHale	9	15	4	22	Wilms	6	11	5	17
Bird	8	16	2	18	King	2	8	0	4
Parish	3	4	2	8	Gmmsk	8	11	1	19
Djnsn	11	21	1	23	Brdsng	10	20	0	20
Ange	9	10	6	26	Rhrdsn	5	8	3	13
Schng	4	4	0	6	Dwksn	5	7	0	10
Wdmn	4	7	0	8	Ransay	2	4	1	5
Carlsn	4	3	0	6	O'Kren	1	5	0	2
Waltn	4	7	0	8	MJnsn	3	8	3	9
Kite	2	2	0	4	Cook	2	4	2	6
Vncnt	0	1	1	1	Cattge	0	2	2	2
					Turner	1	3	2	4
Total	56	90	16	130	Total	46	91	19	111

Boston...36 31 31 32-130
New Jersey...30 30 26 26-111

Three-point goals—Ainge. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 47 (Walton 13), New Jersey 43 (Williams 9). Assists—Boston 26 (McHale, Bird and Ainge 5), New Jersey 23 (Richardson 9). Total fouls—Boston 25, New Jersey 22. Technical fouls—Dawkins 2. Att—15,169

Blazers 121, Celtics 103

PORTLAND BOSTON

	G	FT	T	G	FT	T
Drexler	8-19	3	19	Mitchie	7-12	5 19
Trmpsn	6-14	1	13	Bird	9-26	2 20
Bowie	8-15	2	18	Parish	5-11	2 12
Paxson	6-14	4	16	Djnsn	4-6	5 13
Vincent	1-8	0	2	Ainge	5-12	2 14
Jones	3-5	1	7	Waltn	1-3	0 2
Porter	0-3	0	0	Kite	0-1	0 0
Kersey	11-15	0	22	Widmn	1-3	0 3
Colter	5-9	12	22	Sching	2-2	0 4
Carr	1-2	0	2	Carlsie	2-3	0 4
KJnsn	0-0	0	0	Vncent	3-6	2 9
				Thrdli	1-1	1 3
Total	49-102	23	121	Total	40-86	19 103

Portland...34 22 29 36-121
Boston...29 23 26 26-103

Three-point goals—Ainge 2, Wedman, Vincent. Fouled out—D. Johnson. Rebounds—Portland 57 (Bowie 13), Boston 62 (Bird 11). Assists—Portland 31 (Valentine 7), Boston 26 (Ainge 9). Total fouls—Portland 24, Boston 22. Technical fouls—Boston Coach Jones 2 (ejected), Ainge, D. Johnson.

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW



Ainge: His best game.

the Celtics have picked up over the years have been gambles."

Ainge had his best game of the year—26 points and 5 assists. Ainge made nine of 10 shots from the field, and scored 13 points in the first quarter. Dennis Johnson added 23 points for Boston, which shot .622 from the field for the game.

December 7, at Boston
Portland 121, Celtics 103

Would you believe the Celtics actually lost?

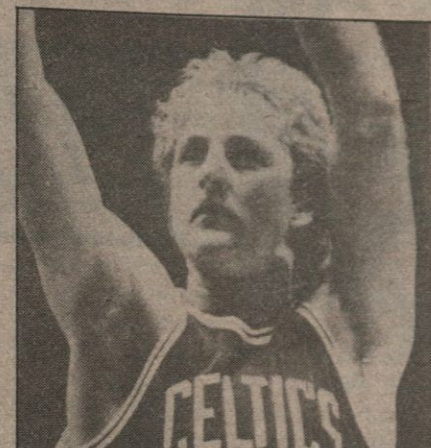
It happened—even more incredibly, at the Garden.

Blazer reserves Jerome Kersey and Steve Colter scored 22 points apiece to end Boston's winning streak at nine. Twenty of Kersey's points came in the second half. Kersey made four straight shots during a third-quarter spurt that put the Blazers ahead to stay. Portland had built up a 19-point lead, but was trailing, 75-74, at one point in the third quarter.

Larry Bird led the Celtics with 19 points.

December 10, at Hartford
Celtics 114, Atlanta 110

The Celtics almost blew a 17-



Bird: put on a show.

point lead, but managed to hang on and beat the stubborn Hawks. A 10-0 spurt in the fourth quarter enabled Boston to stave off Atlanta's comeback.

All five Celtics starters reached double-figures. Robert Parish led the way with 24 points and 10 rebounds.

December 11, at Boston
Celtics 118, Sacramento 101

It was the Larry Bird show at the Garden. Bird scored 24 points, grabbed 7 rebounds and handed five assists—all in 28 minutes. Bird had support from Kevin McHale (19 points), Robert Parish (17) and Danny Ainge (15).

December 14, at Cleveland
Cleveland 109, Celtics 99

World Free and Boston College product John Bagley each scored five points in the last three minutes, enabling the Cavaliers to upset the Celtics. Coming into this game, Boston had beaten Cleveland in 16 straight regular season games.

The Celtics were up by as many as eight points in the first half, but the Cavs fought back and lead, 53-45, at halftime. Cleveland was able to hold off Boston in the second half.

Larry Bird led all scorers with 31 points, on 13 of 25 shooting from the floor. Robert Parish scored 16 points, and Danny Ainge scored 15 points and had 9 assists. Free led the Cavaliers with 22 points, while forward Roy Hinson threw in 20.

December 15, at Boston
Celtics 109, Chicago 104

The Celtics were trailing, 103-94 with less than five minutes remaining, but managed to pull this one out. Boston outscored Chicago 15-1 in the final 4:48 to do the job.

"It was one of the most amazing comebacks I've seen in a while," said Boston coach K.C. Jones. "We were down by nine, and we just had to start playing hard-nosed defense."

Larry Bird led the Celts with 34 points, while Kevin McHale had 27. McHale's hook shot with 50 seconds to play gave the Celtics the lead for good.

"They rose to another level, and all of a sudden it became a playoff-type atmosphere," Bulls guard Quintin Dailey said. "They played excellent defense tonight, and that gave them momentum."

Orlando Woolridge scored 26 points for Chicago.

Boston 109, Chicago 104

CHICAGO (104) BOSTON (109)

	fg-a	ft-a	tp		fg-a
Woolridge	9-22	8-10	26	McHale	11-17
Green	7-14	3-3	17	Bird	13-24
Oldham	0-3	0-0	0	Parish	1-11
Gervin	5-12	3-3	13	Johnson	10-19
Macy	2-5	0-0	5	Ainge	3-7
Banks	1-3	1-1	3	Sichting	1-1
Corzine	7-12	1-1	15	Wedman	1-3
Dailey	6-14	3-4	15	Walton	0-3
Oakley	0-1	0-0	0	Thrdkill	1-1
Paxson	4-7	0-0	10	Carlsie	2-2
Totals	41-83	19-22	104	Totals	43-88
Chicago	9	22	31	30	23
Boston	10	26	26	30	23

Chicago...31 30 23 20-104
Boston...26 28 30 27-109

Three-point goals—Paxson 2, Macy. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 54 (Green 16), Boston 54 (Parish 15). Assists—Chicago 25 (Woolridge, Gervin, Macy 4), Boston 29 (Ainge 9). Total fouls—Chicago 25, Boston 19. Att—14,890.

Cleveland 109, Boston 99

BOSTON (99) CLEVELAND (109)

BOSTON (99)				CLEVELAND (11)			
	fg-a	ft-a	tp		fg-a	ft-a	tp
McHale	4-11	5-5	13	Turpin	3-8	0-2	6
Bird	13-25	2-2	31	Hinson	8-12	4-4	20
Parish	6-11	4-7	16	West	6-6	2-2	14
Sichting	2-8	0-0	4	Bagley	4-10	2-4	11
Ainge	5-13	5-6	15	Free	7-21	6-7	22
Walton	2-5	2-4	6	Poquette	4-9	0-0	8
Wedman	5-10	0-0	11	Davis	3-6	0-0	6
Carlsie	1-5	0-0	2	Shelton	5-10	2-2	12
Vincent	0-1	1-2	1	Minnefeld	2-4	0-0	4
Kite	0-0	0-0	0	Lee	3-3	0-0	6
Totals	38-90	19-28	99	Totals	45-89	18-21	109
Boston					24	21	29
Cleveland					20	21	29

Boston...24 21 29 25-99
Cleveland...20 33 29 27-109

Three-point goals—Bird 3, Wedman, Free 2, Bagley. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 50 (McHale 12), Cleveland 58 (West 11). Assists—Boston 29 (Ainge 9), Cleveland 30 (Bagley 8). Total fouls—Boston 19, Cleveland 24. Technical—Bird A—15,349.



Eddie Gillooly

Heinsohn Will Get What He Deserves

Tom Heinsohn has been nominated and is a cinch to be inducted this coming year into basketball's Hall of Fame. The only surprise is that it has taken this long for Heinie to receive this tribute he so richly deserves. Heinsohn, also known as the "Hawk" and the "Gunner" when he was wearing Celtics No. 15, was as innovative as he was talented, both as a player and a coach.

His induction will be for his feats as a player but the memorabilia in his locker in the Hall of Fame should include some of his creative and memorable pre-game locker room diagrams and a pair of loud-checked slacks to acknowledge his years as a Celtics coach.

The former Holy Cross All-America forward contributed greatly to professional basketball during his 18 years with the Celtics--nine as a player and nine as a coach and is most deserving of the newest honor that will be forthcoming soon.

Heinsohn has always been a blue collar worker in a businessman's suit. His dedication with the Celtics rewarded him with eight NBA championship rings as a player and two as a coach.

Always aggressive, Heinsohn's creativity as a player and a coach often went unnoticed. He patented a line-drive hook shot has never been duplicated. It was his own creation, developed because he worked out in a gym with a low ceiling. He became a top-flight rebounder because he studied the flight of the ball.

As a coach, Heinsohn developed his offense first and defense second. He gave his young players like Dave Cowens, Jo Jo White and Don Chaney the confidence they needed to expand their games. He had a strategy for every situation and most times it was successful.

Despite his proclaimed knowledge of the game, it took Heinsohn nearly two full seasons to convince the fans and the media that he

was not Red Auerbach's "puppet" as a coach. He came into a difficult rebuilding situation with the Celtics in 1969 after Bill Russell and Sam Jones retired.

Naturally, many felt the timing of Heinsohn as coach was a convenient move for Red Auerbach but Heinsohn proved the skeptics wrong. Within two seasons, Heinie had the Celtics back in the foray.

In 1972-73, with White, Cowens and Chaney progressing rapidly and veterans John Havlicek, Don Nelson and Satch Sanders providing the stability, the Celtics won the East Division crown.

But it was the following season when the Celtics defeated the Milwaukee Bucks and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the NBA crown, that Heinsohn finally eliminated the "puppet" label for good. The fans and the media at last realized Heinsohn had developed his own style for the Celtics.

Even though he had incorporated some of the plays and strategies from the Auerbach era, the Celtics of the '70's possessed an upbeat tempo on offense and a bullish way on defense. The Auerbach similarities were obvious as was Heinsohn's style.

As a player, Heinsohn was rookie of the year, a four-time all-star and averaged 18.6 points in his injury shortened career. He played on eight championship teams in his nine seasons. As a coach, Heinsohn's Celtics won five consecutive division titles and two NBA crowns.

As a private citizen, Heinsohn expanded his visibility and popularity as a Lite Beer Celebrity, a top-flight insurance salesman, an acknowledged artist and a television announcer. He is a highly talented and creative person, as well as a busy one.

When he enters the Hall of Fame, Heinsohn will join several others from the Celtics family including Red Auerbach, Bob Cousy, Bill Russell,

Ed MacAuley, and Frank Ramsey. There will be others too such as John Havlicek and Larry Bird.

Heinsohn has been offered several coaching jobs in recent years but the lucrative offers have never been enticing enough for him to give up his love for the Bay State or his loyalty to the Celtics Pride. Born in New Jersey, Heinsohn has resided in Massachusetts for more than 30 years.

Someday too, maybe the Hall of Fame will find a niche for another member of the Celtics family who has made innumerable contributions to professional basketball in his 30 plus years.

Johnny Most has never scored a basket, boxed someone out for a rebound or dove across the court for a loose ball but he has been and in-

tegral part of the Celtics since joining the team as its announcer in the 1952-53 season.

Endurance is one of the keys to Most's success. Not many people could cope with the travelling year after year and still maintain a high quality of broadcasting that Most has brought to the Celtics games during his 33 years.

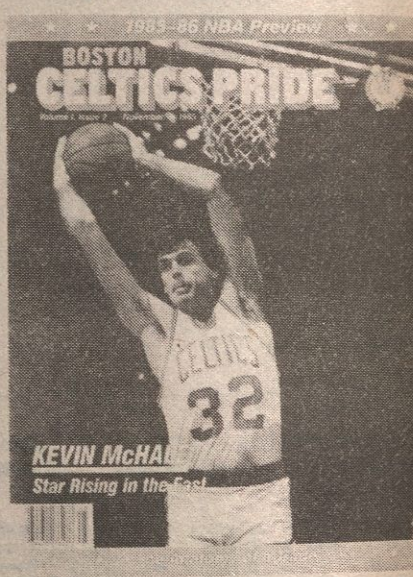
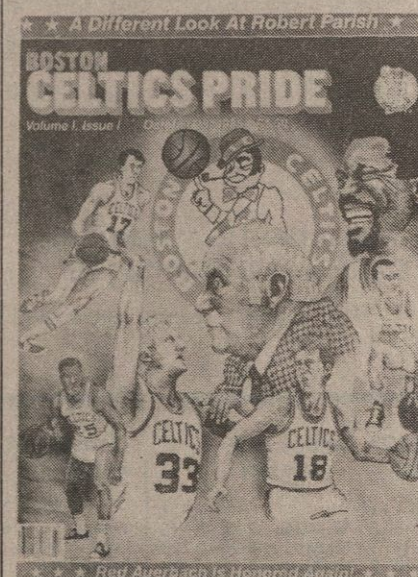
That in itself is and incredible feat. Including 358 playoff games, Most has broadcast nearly 3000 Celtics games. He has been in the booth for 15 championships. His voice gave way on him a few times and illness forced him to the sidelines for a short time in recent years but overall he has been indestructible.

He's battled fans and management on opposing courts but has never swerved in his support of the Celtics. He was an amazing one-man show for years. Only in recent years, did Most ever have a sidekick in the radio booth.

Once he's on the air, Most becomes a totally different person. Watching him work is something else. Off the air, he is calm and acts nonchalant about the game of basketball.

Someday, hopefully it will be soon, Most will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. He too deserves the distinction.

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Some Surprises, Some Disappointments

Mid-Term Grades for NBA Teams

By Tony Cooper

Listen up, boys and girls, it's time for mid-terms at good ol' NBA U. What we'll do here is grade the other 22 teams in the league, based on overall performance during the first third of the season. Shooting, rebounding and all the usual factors will be computed in the grade. Those receiving failing or other substandard marks will have ample opportunity to remove that from permanent records, but that won't be easy. This is one tough course...

ATLANTIC DIVISION

PHILADELPHIA 76ers - The Sixers were supposed to give the Celtics a run for their money in the Atlantic, but have been playing more like fool's gold. This is not too pleasing to owner Harold Katz, and rumor has it rookie coach Matt Guokas' head may already be chopping block-bound. Philadelphia has been playing, listless, uninspired ball. Even luminaries like Moses Malone (shooting just .450 from the floor) and Julius Erving have lost some of their luster. True Andrew Toney's injury hasn't helped the 76ers cause, but this team just doesn't seem to have it. **GRADE: D**

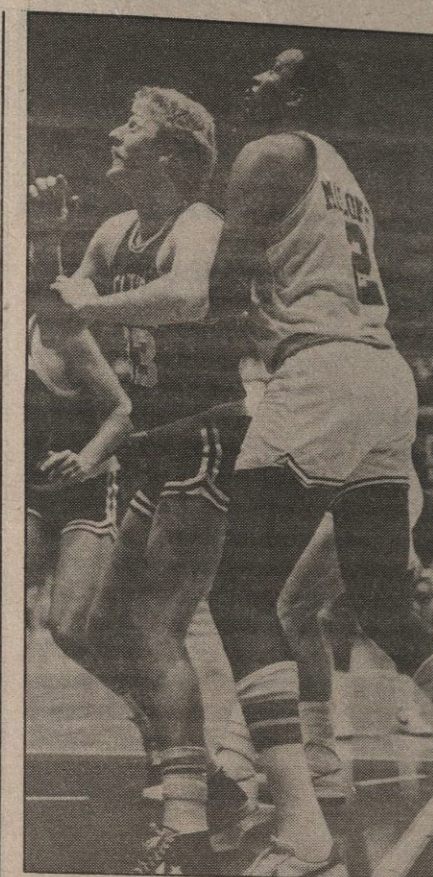
NEW JERSEY NETS: The Nets are at their usual level of just-above-.500 mediocrity. However, with the demise of the 76ers, the Nets might be able to sneak into second place by the time all is said and done. New Jersey has been getting good production from Buck Williams, Mike Gminski and Micheal Ray Richardson. **GRADE: C**

WASHINGTON BULLETS: Jeff Ruland had recovered well from last year's elbow injury and was playing some of the best ball of his career until he broke his ankle. Guard Jeff Malone seems to have the makings of a star. Now, we'll find out whether Manute Bol can play the game, but he'll need a lot of help from his friends for the Bullets to win. **GRADE: C**

NEW YORK KNICKS: If the Knicks didn't have their two Pats--Ewing and Cummings, they wouldn't make the playoffs in the USBL. Ewing has been everything he was cracked up to be--and then some--as well as proving to be a dandy offensive threat. Injuries have killed the Knicks, who have been forced to go with players who can euphemistically be described as marginal. Coach Hubie Brown is really earning his money here. **GRADE: C**

CENTRAL DIVISION

MILWAUKEE BUCKS: Ex-Celtics Don Nelson is doing his usual great



Moses: cold on the floor.

job of running this team. The Bucks don't have as much talent as some other teams around, they just manage to beat you. Probably Milwaukee's biggest surprise has been Portland reject Jeff Lamp, who joined the team as a free-agent and has been playing well. **GRADE: A**

DETROIT PISTONS: M.L. Carr says the Pistons scare him more than any team in the league. Well, Coach Chuck Daly undoubtedly finds his team's erratic play pretty scary--and distasteful. Detroit has talent in every position, but has yet to put it all together. Boston native Bill Laimbeer is one of the top five pivots in the league, and what else can you say about Isiah Thomas? Still, the Pistons should be doing much better. **GRADE: C**

ATLANTA HAWKS: Spud Webb is a nice, little guy, but the Hawks haven't reached many heights this season. Top pick Jon Koncak is showing signs of becoming a good player, which is good news for Coach Mike Fratello. The Hawks may make the playoffs (unlike last year), but they probably won't go very far. **GRADE: C**

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS: Observers thought the Cavs would come off last year's fine showing against the Celtics in the playoffs and jump off to a good start this year. However, such hasn't been the case. A problem here is that World Free's shooting has been less than extraterrestrial (about 44 percent). Coach George Karl hopes that Cleveland,

which has talent, will bounce back in the second half. **GRADE: C**

CHICAGO BULLS: Can anyone find a logical reason why the Bulls would want to pick up the high-priced (and seemingly over-the-hill) George Gervin? Quintin Dailey would be a great one if he could just keep himself out of trouble for a season. Bright spots have been the outputs of Orlando Woolridge (who's now a star in this league), Dave Corzine and Kyle Macy. Maybe things will get better when Michael Jordan is healthy. **GRADE: D**

INDIANA PACERS:

Wayman Tisdale, who was picked second in the June draft, hasn't had the kind of impact the Pacers would have liked to see. With a stable of good, young talent, the Pacers ought to be at least at the .500 level. Coach George Irvine has enlisted the aid of a psychologist to help him with the rigors of NBA coaching. Yeah, but can the guy shoot? **GRADE: F**

MIDWEST DIVISION

HOUSTON ROCKETS: Ralph and Bill may or may not be getting along, but the Rockets are nevertheless the best of the Midwest. Akeem Olajuwon might very well be the top center in the league right now. Lewis Lloyd has provided Houston with some badly-needed outside shooting, which top pick Steve Harris hasn't done. Do the Rockets have the stuff to be the Western Conference's representative in the championship series? It could happen. **GRADE: A**

DENVER NUGGETS: It's time to give Doug Moe some due. The man knows what he's doing--he can coach. The Nuggets have adjusted well to life after Dan Issel, and Alex English is playing better than ever. Denver doesn't score as much as it used to (averaging 116 points a game), but the Nuggets actually do play a semblance of defense these days. **GRADE: A**

UTAH JAZZ: It's no joke that funny man Frank Layden would like to see his Jazz putting out better tunes. Darrell Griffith is badly missed, which puts even more scoring pressure on Adrian Dantley. Luckily for Utah, Bob Hansen has stepped in and done a decent job in Griffith's place. Karl (The Mailman) Malone has been delivering. **GRADE: B**

SAN ANTONIO SPURS: Once an automatic to win the division, the Spurs have been on a steady decline. Artis Gilmore is still hanging in there, despite two gimpy knees. Cotton Fitzsimmons may need all the humor he can get before this season is over. **GRADE: C**

DALLAS MAVERICKS: What's

with the Mavs? It appeared they had the goods to take this division, but only Sacramento has kept them from the bottom of the Midwest. One can only imagine the content of Dick Mot-ta's halftime and post-game diatribes. **GRADE: D**

SACRAMENTO KINGS: The Kings have moved some 200 miles from Kansas City, but they haven't changed a bit. This is still a bad team. At least the Kings are assured of selling out every home game this season. **GRADE: F**

PACIFIC DIVISION

LOS ANGELES LAKERS: Are there any words to describe this team? Pat Riley's bunch doesn't seem to have any noticeable flaws, and newcomers A.C. Green and Maurice Lucas have contributed nicely. So has Mitch Kupchak, which is happy news, considering his injury-riddled past. And Riley is still the best-dressed guy west of Worcester. **GRADE: A**

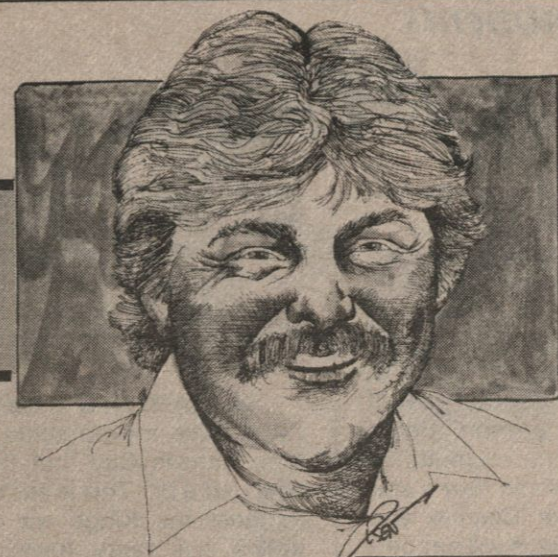
PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS: Trying to keep pace with the Lakers is like trying to stop a charging elephant with a water pistol. Nevertheless, Jack Ramsay's Blazers don't fall down for anyone. Jim Paxson's scoring is way down from what it's been in the past, but Portland should make the playoffs. **GRADE: B**

SEATTLE SUPERSONICS: Bernie Bickerstaff has had an up-and-down rookie year as coach. First-round pick Xavier McDaniel has won a starting job and appears to be the real thing, which should make Bickerstaff's life easier. Tom Chambers has shown at least a little bit of consistency now that he comes off the bench. **GRADE: C**

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS: The Clips won their first five games, and have been going downhill ever since. Ex-Celtics Don Chaney is finding this poor play maddening. Amazingly, owner Donald Sterling hasn't talked about a coaching change--yet. Benoit Benjamin, the third pick in the league, has been a bust so far. **GRADE: F**

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS: The Warriors have made some strides since Chris Mullin and Purvis Short joined them. Joe Barry Carroll is doing okay after spending a year in Italy. Give Coach John Bach, an ex-Celtics, credit: He didn't lose his cool when Golden State unglued earlier in the year. **GRADE: C**

PHOENIX SUNS: The Suns have been nothing short of awful. Not even Georgi Glouchkov is helping much. Phoenix lost its first nine road games of the year. Now complicating matters further, Walter Davis is out indefinitely. **GRADE: F**



Glenn Ordway

SANTA CAN BE CREATIVE

Tis the holiday season and time for Santa to dish out some holiday cheer. Let's check under the tree and see what the jolly old fat guy has for some of our favorite people....

K.C. Jones - Some overdue respect in the way of "Coach of the Year" honors. Why is it that this has become an annual award for the mentor who takes his team from the bottom of the heap to the glory of "mediocrity". Those who guide superstars must not only manipulate X and O's but they must delicately maneuver egos.

Darryl Dawkins - A new NBA rule... 8 fouls per game.

My partner **Johnny Most** - The LA Lakers record of 33 consecutive games...but in John's case we're talking about smokeless games.

Dave "THE ZINK" Zinkoff - The other vocal legend...A speedy recovery from open heart surgery. Philly is just not the same without him.

Sixer's owner and diet entrepreneur **Harold Katz** - a week with Frank Layden.

Manute Bol - four weeks with Frank Layden.

Hubie Brown - his new book "How to score in single digits and still win in the NBA". This is a follow-up to his previous best seller "I'm OK You're OK...unless you played in the league then you're not OK to coach."

Greg Kite - some offense.

Kelly Tripucka - familiarity with the defensive end of the court.

Danny Ainge - a few less boos on the road.

The **Seattle Supersonics** - nothing... sorry Santa failed to show.

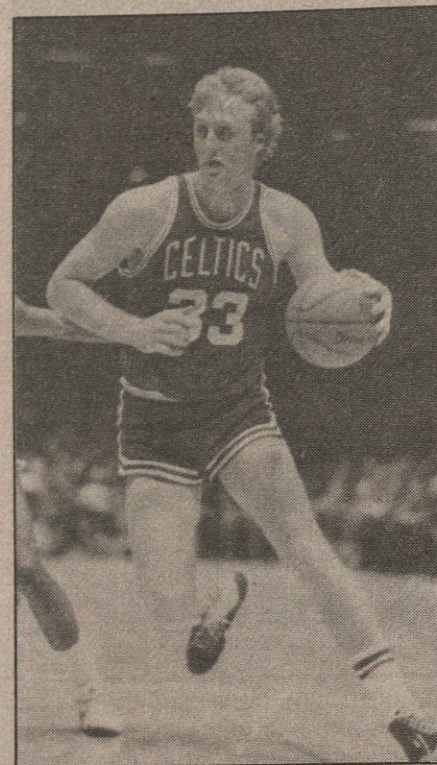
Ricky Mahorn - a new elbow.

Commissioner David Stern - a third official.

Boston Garden - a new speaker upstairs in the corner. The present one shakes so much, I have trouble



Dawkins: needs new rule.



Bird: return to form.

distinguishing the Star Spangled Banner from Jingle Bells.

Los Angeles Lakers - an invitation to visit Boston on May 28th.

Larry Bird - a return to last years phenomenal form.

NBA - more guys named JOHNSON.

NBA Fans - no Miami Marlins, Santa Ana Bananas, Minneapolis Twin Gophers or Toronto Hoop Mounties in '86 or '87.

Sly Williams - a realization that when opportunity knocks and you don't answer...they usually don't come back.

Edgar Jones and Terry Tyler - Dan Issel's teeth.

Bill Walton - an injury-free season plus (of course) a couple of new Grateful Dead bootleg tapes. He may own a copy of nearly every single Dead performance to date.

NBA Referees - a color by dots diagram book detailing the illegal defense rules.

Dennis Johnson - a starting assignment in February's All Star Game in Dallas...There's no question that he deserves it.

Robert Parish - ditto

Detroit and Atlanta - a few more of those ballot boxes. It seems they've already stuffed them full.

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Celtics Equipment Manager

Behind the Scenes Means Just That!

By David Zuccaro

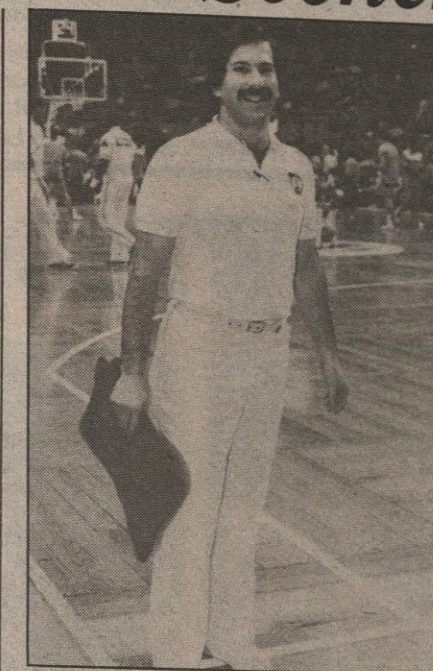
He is seldom witnessed by the general public, yet he displays great pride in his accomplishments. He gets little credit from the outside world, but is tremendously respected and acknowledged by that idiom known as the Celtics' Family." He is the archetypical "behind-the-scenes" worker whose day begins as the sun prepares its daily rise and ends after his home-away-from-home, the locker room, is cleared of reporters who have concluded their stories. His job entails duties that are usually taken for granted by the less informed, however, he has made the transition from Assistant Equipment Manager to the head man successfully.

This laborious worker is the popular Wayne Lebeaux, who was promoted to his present position over the summer after the unfortunate death of the organization's original equipment manager, Walter Randall. States Lebeaux on Randy, as he was known to those who cherished his effervescent personality, "He was instrumental to me for where I am now. I learned a great deal from him. His spirit can still be felt in the locker room. He was a great person."

The Randall name continues, as Walter's son Frank assists Wayne by washing the players uniforms after each home game. Joe Oatato is another aide who helps Wayne in preparation for the evening's activities.

Lebeaux isn't a newcomer to the Celtics' staff. When trainer Ray Melchoirre came to Boston in 1979, Lebeaux attended the Celtics' training site at Camp Milbrook in Marshfield. Ray was in need of a head ball boy and Wayne fit the role perfectly. After a stint of three years as a ball boy, Wayne assisted the Celtics Public Relations staff at the press gate at each home game for one season before becoming Randy's assistant in the locker room. "The responsibility that he assumed in caring for the players and their equipment means a great deal to the team and myself," boasts Melchoirre of his disciple.

Whenever the Celtics are in Boston, Lebeaux attends practice on a regular basis, getting to Hellenic College (the teams' practice facility) early in the morning and staying after the players and media have headed their various ways. "It's almost like being in two places at once," describes Lebeaux of his responsibilities when Boston is in town. "I go from Brookline (site of Hellenic College) to the Garden and back to Brookline over and over again. I have duties that have to be completed at both places. When the Celtics play a home game, I'm here from about



Lebeaux: no newcomer

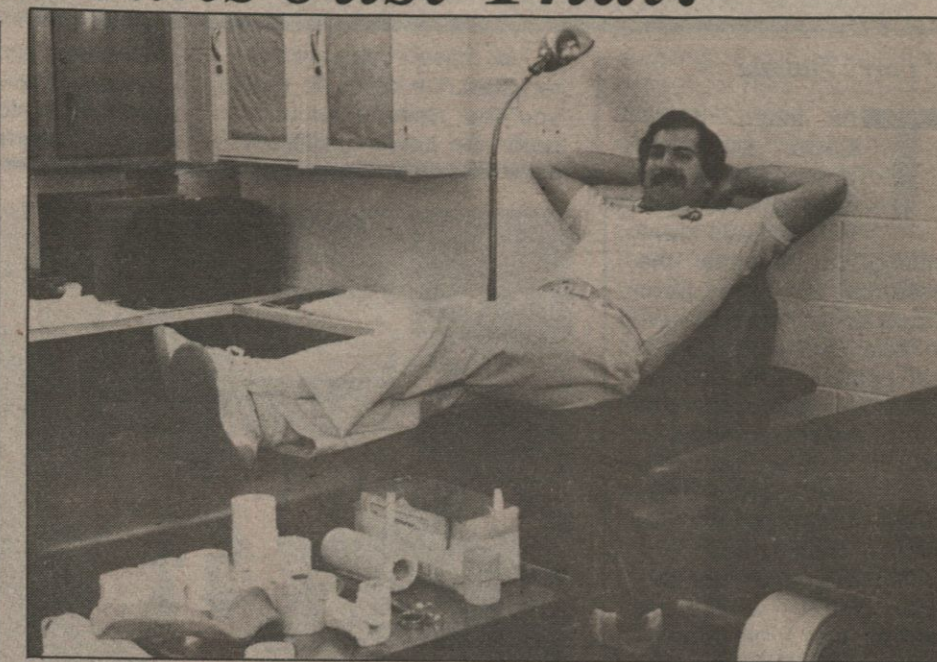
9:00 in the morning to almost midnight." On some rare occasions, when the Celtics play back-to-back home games, Lebeaux has had to sleep in the locker room to fulfill his tasks in the uppermost way.

Lebeaux estimates that the Celtics and their opponents use about 500 towels during a home game. Wayne is responsible for approximately more towels than John Havlicek scored points. "Every one of them has to be accounted for. The ball boys find some in the showers, some on the Garden floor, etc."

Other items that Wayne has to keep track of are the players equipment. "Each player gets one shirt and pair of shorts to last the season, unless it gets destroyed. Also, depending on the player, each one of the guys use about 15-30 pair of sneakers in a season. I keep and inventory at the practice site and at the Garden for the players. Each player also gets at least 2 sweatsuits per season," Lebeaux notes.

During the pre-season and playoffs, when the team is ready to take the floor, Lebeaux has been at the arena preparing for the evening's events.

Lebeaux also has to deal with 12 diverse personalities when communicating with the players. "When we play in Hartford, I usually go to one of the fast-food chains for the players. Larry (Bird) likes chicken, so I have to get a chicken sandwich for him. Scotty (Wedman) and Bill (Walton) eat fish, so I have to get them fish filet sandwiches and the other guys eat hamburgers with various toppings," Lebeaux adds amusingly. "I keep the refrigerator in the locker room in the Garden filled with different beverages for the players," utters the Celtics Equipment Manager. "At practice I have to get Bill (Walton) black coffee every morning," Wayne recites.



Wayne: doing what he does best.

Another duty of Lebeaux is being in charge of the ball boys. "I am responsible for their actions and have control of hiring and firing them," Lebeaux states with an authoritative voice. "I also aid the visiting team in Boston with their equipment. I provide them basketballs, water, soda, etc. when they need it."

At the present time, Lebeaux is furthering his education by taking Sports Medicine Courses at U-Mass Boston with hopes of assisting Ray in training duties.

Ironically, Lebeaux rarely gets to see the Celtics play without use of a television. His job requires him to regulate the locker room during home games and prepare for the half time activities and post game activities. "One of these days, I hope to see the boys in action, but I'm always working during the game."

It is his work and the effort he puts into it that gives Wayne the great relationship he has with the Celtics' Family."

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NBA Notebook



By Terry Lyons

Christmas time will bring tidings of great joy to the former high school basketball team of LA Clippers star **Marques Johnson**. It seems the Crenshaw H.S. club was invited to the Belk Classic Christmas Tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina but couldn't afford the airfare from the Los Angeles area to the prestigious east coast tourney. The Clippers' Johnson caught wind of the dilemma and offered to pick up the majority of the tab so the Crenshaw team will be heading to Myrtle Beach on the day after Christmas...Now, if your still doing your Christmas shopping, please beware of the dreaded "Kareem Abdul-JaBEAR." A Chicago firm has been marketing a teddy bear wearing a gold satin jersey with No. 33, blue basketball shorts and an attached miniature basketball. The firm apparently didn't check with Lakers star **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** before marketing their product and the NBA's all-time leading scorer recently filed suit against the company, claiming exploitation of his name and injury to his marketability. Should the suit be decided in Abdul-Jabbar's favor, do you think the possibility of a Joe "BEARY" Carroll would be shelved? ... The Denver Nuggets were connecting through Chicago's O'Hare Airport when a fan charged towards the team with his young daughter. The proud father passed NBA All-Star **Alex English** and **Calvin Natt** but introduced his daughter to guard **T.R. Dunn**, saying "I want you to meet one of the best defensive players in the NBA." ... Cleveland center **Mel Turpin** likes to watch pro wrestling when he's not battling on the basketball court. Said one of Turpin's teammates, "Why don't you try wrestling instead of basketball. Then you could eat as much as you want."

Both Atlanta Coach **Mike Fratello** and rookie guard **Spud Webb** are listed at 5-7. Recently, Hawks' assistant coach **Willis Reed** wanted to find out who was taller so he had them stand back-to-back as he placed a book on their heads and put a marble on the book. The marble rolled toward Fratello ... Dallas Coach **Dick Motta** tried an interesting combination recently, playing what could be one of the tallest lineups of all-time. At the forwards, Motta had rookies **Bill Wennington**, 7-0, and **Uwe Blab**, 7-1, at center was **James Donaldson**, 7-2, while the guards were **Detlef Schrempf**, 6-10 and **Derek Harper**, 6-4. With 6-9½ **Sam Perkins** on the bench, the Mavericks' lineup could've been taller. "Coach

Motta was thinking of subbing me at guard," said Perkins. He mentioned it but I think he was joking. I would have liked to try it. I would have run the plays to the forwards," laughed Perkins, hinting that he wouldn't stray from Motta's traditionally forward-oriented offense ... Golden State Coach **John Bach** has nothing but good words about rookie **Chris Mullin**. "He's like that baseball player, he's a natural! He gives the ball to the guys that are open, takes the shot he can make. He's the one big guard we've longed for many times the last two years," said Bach. ... LA Lakers Coach **Pat Riley** thinks the current Laker team is superior to the 1971-72 club that went 69-13. "I was the sixth-man on that team so it couldn't have been that deep," said Riley. "But until this team wins 33 in a row, wins 69 games in the season and then blitzes through the NBA Finals, you can't compare results."

You've read about Houston's one "L" of a backcourt with the likes of **Lewis Lloyd**, **John Lucas** and **Allen Leavell**. Lucas thinks the key to the club is Lloyd. "I think we have the best backcourt in the division, and it's not because of me," said Lucas. "Lewis may have gotten a label at Golden State as a guy who wasn't a complete player, but he has a new lease on life since coming to Houston. This is a man who can beat you in a lot of ways and he's proving it this year." ... Detroit's **Bill Laimbeer** was wondering out loud if there was any player in the NBA he might be able to outjump. "I don't think there's anyone," said Laimbeer, scratching his head. "Wait! Maybe **Jeff Ruland** down in Washington." Laimbeer looked around for **Rick Mahorn**, the former Bullet. "Hey Horn, can I outjump Ruland," asked the Pistons center? "No, you can't," said Mahorn ... Seattle SuperSonics center **Jack Sikma** always seems to start the season a little slow, as evidenced by his 14.9 ppg scoring average and 41 percent shooting over the first month of the season. "If you look at the nine years I've been in the league. I get rolling in late November, December and January," said Sikma. "I don't know what it is, but it's something I should deal with." ... **World B. Free** of Cleveland is having one of his best NBA seasons according to the Cavs Coach **George Karl**. "World is playing the best overall game of basketball in his career," said Karl. "Not only is he scoring when we need points, but he is playing good defense. World is also showing everyone how well he can pass the ball."

... The Utah Jazz are starting a bicycle club for their players. Jazz Coach **Frank Layden** came up with the idea that any player who doesn't get at least 20 minutes of playing time in a game would have to put in the time postgame on a stationary bike. So, if a player does not play, he's required to pedal a full 20 minutes. If he plays 10 minutes, then the ride would only be another 10. Although it sounds like something the Jazz players would object to, the idea has met little criticism. "It's not a bad idea," said **Fred Roberts**, a forward who spends considerable time on the bicycle. "When you get into the season, and play a lot of games without getting time, you can get out of shape." ... The Philadelphia 76ers have been working with weight trainers to strengthen team members. The club hired conditioning expert **Pat Croce**, who was one of the first to introduce strength training to the NHL, starting with the Philadelphia Flyers nearly five years ago. Forward **Julius Erving** worked with Croce throughout the year and recently commented on the program's strenuous requirements while he pointed to some anatomy charts in the training room at St. Joseph's University. "Before Pat Croce," said Doc, pointing to the chart of a man's muscular makeup. "After Pat Croce," he said, looking at a skeletal chart.

The Philadelphia 76ers didn't get off to their usual shotgun start this season and it has some NBA followers a little concerned. The club is adjusting to the style of first-year head Coach **Matt Guokas** while dealing with several injury problems. The major injury has been to All-Star guard **Andrew Toney**, who has had stress fractures to both feet. "I felt back in June that this wasn't going to be the smoothest season," said Guokas. "But put Andrew Toney on the floor and you've got four players you can go to at any time. I'm not saying everything would be rosy and peachy if Andrew was here. I'm trying to find something positive with our situation right now." ... Sixers forward **Julius Erving** has kept the party line that he'll make a decision on his future on or about the first of the year. Erving said in a recent *Hoop Magazine* interview, "I've approached it on a year-to-year basis and have contracted as such, even though I have the choice of negotiating for two or three years. I don't want to be contractually obligated for two of three seasons if I feel I should get out after one or two. I think it's preferable to go one

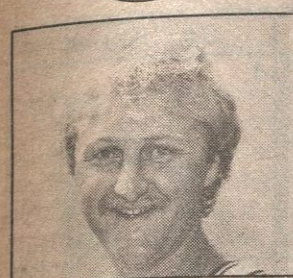
season at a time. Sometime during the course of this season, I'll make a decision whether this is going to be my last season or whether I want to play another." ... Popular Philadelphia 76ers P.A. announcer **Dave Zinkoff** was recently hospitalized and has undergone a series of tests. In his absence, **Dan Baker**, the regular P.A. announcer for the Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies, stepped in for the "Zink." Said Baker of his role, "It's like pinch-hitting for **Babe Ruth**." ... **Lenny Wilkens**, general manager of the Seattle SuperSonics, calls rookie forward **Xavier McDaniel** "the meanest Mr. Nice Guy I know."

Houston Coach **Bill Fitch** hopes second-year center **Akeem Olajuwon** keeps up his early pace. "Akeem is a thoroughbred. He has that special ability to reach down and come up with something special in the clutch. When you jump on his back, more times than not, he'll carry you." ... From the modesty is the best policy department: LA Lakers **Magic Johnson** recently said, "I thought last season was my best, but this one seems like it's better than that." ... Speaking of Magic, Laker teammate **Maurice Lucas** feels he's one of the best to play the point. "If you've got a chance to get the ball inside if there's any room at all, Magic is one of the three guys in the league who can drop it in on you at any time. The other two? **Isiah Thomas** is one. I'd have to research my memory for the other one." ... When it comes to the best players of all time, even legendary collegiate coach **John Wooden** has a tough time narrowing it down. "Larry Bird is the finest player in the game, but not the most dominating," said Wooden. "I wouldn't pick him over **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** or **Moses Malone**. The best player I've ever seen through the years was **Oscar Robertson**, but Bird may be superior, and a good case could be made for Magic." ... New York Coach **Hubie Brown** admires the hard work of two players trying to provide help to highly touted rookie **Patrick Ewing**. "Ken Bannister has really been great. He has to play with confidence, then he gets on a roll. We also need **Pat Cummings**. We have to have him on the floor because we need scoring. When he's out there, you have to honor him. He works hard on the boards," said Brown.

... Do you think Utah Jazz Coach **Frank Layden**, one of the all-time masters of one-liners, bit his lip when he heard a Cavalier fan crack, "Hey Layden, sit down. They don't sell hamburgers over there." ...



Roundball Spoken Here



Larry Bird



Robert Parish

Larry Bird, joking about the fact that K.C. Jones was a .387 career shooter: "You can't look for a lot of help from him when you go into a slump. You can't go up to him and say 'Coach, I'm just 10 for my last 40 shots, what do you think?' K.C.'s liable to sit there and tell you, '10-for-40, eh? Sounds pretty good to me.'"

Robert Parish commenting on Bill Walton: "His aggressiveness and intensity are the same as they always have been. He's very unselfish and he's an excellent passer. He means longevity to my career and I think I mean the same to his career. He's a perfectionist and a competitor. The competitiveness he's brought the team has helped us, especially in practice."

Kevin McHale says of Milwaukee's Alton Lister: "He should be a chiropractor. He manipulates you in the back so hard when he's guarding you that on one play he knocked my back out of joint and then realigned it on the same play."

Jan Volk, describing the Celtics Mystique: "As I've always said, if it were susceptible to easy definition, everybody would have it."



Kevin McHale



Jan Volk

By The Numbers

Statistical Highlights of Celtics Games, November 29-December 11

The Celtics had a 6-1 record, averaging 110.5 in this stretch of games. They allowed 105.2. They held the Knicks to 88 points on November 29 and repeated this effort, holding teams below 100, with a 102-97 triumph the following night in Atlanta. Sacramento tallied 101, but the Celtics had a 104-71 lead at the end of three periods, and coasted to the win.

Danny Ainge: Played in his 300th professional game against the Hawks, December 10. He tied season high in rebounding and assists in the loss to Portland--9 rebounds and 7 assists. This capped an outstanding week for Ainge. He shot 9-10 against the Nets, 9-11 vs. the Bucks. He had 17 steals in four games that week. Against the Trail Blazers, he passed for his 1000th assist.

Larry Bird: Was named Player of the Week, December 1. He scored team highs against Sacramento (24 in 28 minutes), and Portland--20, with 11 rebounds. He scored 2-2 from the 3-point FG range in the win over Sacramento. Bird has pushed his average in scoring to 22.8 ppg, 13th in the league, 4th in FT % with .921. Against the Nets: 18 points, 5 assists, 3 steals.

Rick Carlisle: Played 7 minutes against the Trail Blazers, scoring 4 points; played 15 minutes against the Kings, scoring 2 with 2 assists. In three-game road trip against Atl., Mil., and NJ, he shot 5-7 from field, and scored 13 on trip.

Dennis Johnson: Played 15 minutes before hyperextending his

thumb against the Kings. 9 assists and 21 points against the Hawks in Hartford. In four games, including road trip, shot 29-48 from field...had just 10 turnovers in 7 games in total of 248 minutes.

Greg Kite: Kite played 10 minutes against the Kings, scoring 2, grabbing 2 rebounds, making a steal. Saw action in all 7 games in relief role.

Kevin McHale: Scored 19 with 6 rebounds against the Kings, 24 with 9 rebounds and 3 blocks vs. Hawks. Averaged 21 ppg in the 7 games and blocked 20 shots. High scoring effort was 29 against Bucks and twice had 10 rebounds, against the Bucks and Trail Blazers.

Robert Parish: Nearing 5,000 rebounds for career, attempted 5,000th field goal for career and 3,000th free throw. Scored 11-14 from the field in total of 24 against the Hawks, and added 10 rebounds, 5 assists, and 3 steals. Following night he shot 8-9 from field in limited action. 12 points-13 rebounds against New York, Nov. 29.

Jerry Sichting: Increased minutes to 22 after Dennis Johnson's 1st half injury in Kings' game. Sichting scored 10 with 2 assists and 2 steals. Capped a recent surge when the Hoosier shot 12-15 from the field. 6 points and 5 rebounds in 102-97 win over Atlanta, November 30th.

David Thirdkill: Most extensive effort since rejoining team was against Kings: 9 points in 17 minutes. He was signed December 5th and played 5 minutes against Portland, scoring 3 and grabbing 3 rebounds.

Sam Vincent: Shot 0-5 in 15 minutes against Kings, but had 2 rebounds and 3 assists. Played 5 minutes vs. Hawks December 10th, scoring 2 points with an assist. Scored career high of 9 against the Blazers, including his first 3-point field goal. He also had 4 assists against Blazers.

Scott Wedman: Weathered a back spasm to turn in 24 productive minutes against the Kings: 10 points,

5-rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal. Shot 4-7 from field against the Nets, December 4, and scored 10 critical points' in road win over Bucks.

Bill Walton: Had a season high 13 rebounds against the Nets, December 4th. Also blocked 3, made 4 assists, and 1 steal in 23 minutes. 9 points 5 rebounds against Bucks, Dec. 3rd. 7 points, 9 rebounds vs. Knicks, November 29th.

Streaks: McHale has scored in double figures in every game in the 85-86 season and the last 52 he's played in the regular season. McHale has also blocked a shot in every game this Year.

Bird has scored 10+ points in the last 147 consecutive regular season contests. Parish has 119 rebounds in 12 home games. Walton has played in every game this season, and over 10 minutes in each contest. Ainge tied his career high in points with 26 against the Nets on December 4th.

As of December 15, 1986

BOSTON CELTICS STATISTICS

PLAYER	G	QS	MIN	-FIELD GOALS-			3-PT	FG	FGA	-FREE THROWS-			--REBOUNDS--			AST	PF	DQ	STL	TO	BLK	PTS	AVG	HI
				FG	FGA	PCT				FT	FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT									
BIRD	24	24	913	211	464	.455	13	40	132	143	.923	51	173	224	145	55	0	48	87	17	567	23.6	47	
MCHALE	24	24	930	198	360	.542	0	0	115	154	.747	.55	137	212	64	70	1	13	50	48	305	21.0	32	
JOHNSON	21	21	755	132	271	.487	0	6	79	93	.849	.20	53	73	106	65	2	36	39	4	343	16.3	30	
PARISH	24	24	773	148	272	.544	0	0	85	118	.720	.83	143	226	42	65	1	23	59	40	381	15.9	27	
AINGE	24	24	782	128	240	.533	6	19	48	53	.906	.15	66	81	131	64	0	40	50	3	310	12.9	26	
WALTON	24	0	435	64	116	.552	0	0	33	46	.717	.37	100	137	38	67	13	59	22	161	6.7	19		
WEDMAN	24	0	304	63	150	.420	3	14	16	30	.533	.12	30	42	19	30	0	12	16	4	145	6.0	15	
SICHTING	24	3	433	54	103	.524	0	2	10	10	1,000	.10	17	27	50	40	0	19	24	0	118	4.9	12	
THIRDKILL	4	0	31	5	8	.625	0	0	5	10	.500	.2	2	2	4	0	4	0	3	0	15	3.8	9	
CARLISLE	22	0	204	25	54	.463	0	2	10	15	.667	.4	12	16	37	21	0	6	15	0	60	2.7	7	
VINCENT	16	0	120	11	37	.297	1	3	9	12	.750	.0	10	10	25	22	0	4	18	0	32	2.0	9	
KITE	18	0	76	8	15	.533	0	0	1	2	.500	.5	12	17	3	17	0	1	8	2	17	0.9	4	
CELTICS	24		5810	1049	2111	.497	23	90	550	698	788	.301	783	1084	662	536	4	216	437	141	2671	111.3	132	
OPPONENTS	24		5810	1013	2179	.466	24	83	466	633	736	.312	690	1002	568	607	6	218	425	97	2520	105.0	124	



JANUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 INDIANA PACERS 7:30	3 NEW JERSEY NETS 7:30	4
5	6 CELTICS 44	7 DETROIT PISTONS 7:30	8 CLEVELAND CAVALIERS 7:30	9	10 Atlanta Hawks 8:00	11
12	13	14	15 Denver Nuggets 7:30	16	17 INDIANA PACERS 8:00	18 Atlanta Hawks 7:30
19	20	21	22 LOS ANGELES LAKERS 8:00	23	24 Golden State Warriors	25
26 PHILADELPHIA 76ers 12:00	27	28	29	30 CHICAGO BULLS 8:30	31 WASHINGTON BULLETS	

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- 3 What center slept on a bench in the Boston Commons after winning the 1974 NBA Championship?
- 4 In 1980 two Celtics retired from basketball. Who was the guard? The center was Dave Cowens. Who was the guard?
- 5 Who said "I could take 4 guys off the street in Petersburg (Virginia) and beat them (the Celtics)"?
- 6 Who said "I'm going to look awfully silly if he stuffs the ball and me through the hoop?"

- 1 Les Smith
- 2 Light a cigar
- 3 Dave Cowens
- 4 Pete Maravich
- 5 Moses Malone
- 6 Bill Russell about Walt Chamberlain

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Collegiate Scouting is in Full Swing It's Hello... Goodbye Season Again

By Rick Weitzman

The first point to understand about scouting for an NBA team such as the Celtics is that it is extensive. The days of drafting a "sleeper" in the first round as Red Auerbach did with Sam Jones in 1957 are virtually gone. Every potential NBA player has been seen by scouts with very few exceptions. The second point to understand about scouting is that it is, at best, not a precise science. Two people can see the same player in the same game and have conflicting reports about the player.

I have been covering New England for the Celtics for the past two years. I try to see as many Division 1 games as I can, as well as Division 2 and 3 games on occasion. Since the CBA plays in Worcester and Maine, I see most of their games. That translates into 3 or 4 days per week. My wife, Carol, calls this the "Hello... goodbye season" because I come home from work, say hello, and then am off to a game.

I meet with Jimmy Rodgers, who coordinates the scouting schedules, and we discuss the games for the coming month that I should see. I then call the schools for a scouting pass, and most all the colleges are very cooperative. Sometimes it's an adventure finding the gym and securing a parking spot (last year I went to Bentley to see Manute Bol and had to park about 1 1/2 miles away). Then I might have to scurry around trying to locate my pass. I suppose I could see a lot of games on TV but I want to get a total picture of the player, what he does in warmups, how he interacts with other players as well as his coach, and I can only see that in person. I try to sit at the press table to have access to statistics and have an unobstructed view of everything that happens on the court. When the game ends, I have to fill out an extensive report on each player who has NBA potential regardless of his year in school. That way we have an accurate picture of the player whenever he is draftable.

I'm constantly talking about players with Jimmy Rodgers, Ed Badger, Red, and Jan Volk. During the season, K.C. is more concerned with players in the CBA should we need to add someone to our roster quickly, as we did with David Thirdkill.

Marty Blake runs a service that provides his NBA clients with reports on college seniors who have NBA potential. As a scout for the Celtics, I'm looking for something more specific. I try to evaluate how the player will fit on our team. Who can he beat out? Is he a better center than what we already have, or, can he take the spot one of our guards currently



Rick Weitzman and his "good-bye girl" Jenifer.

holds? When I see a player, I don't want to stereotype him. For instance, it would have been easy to dismiss Michael Adams or Spud Webb as NBA players because of their size, but they're on NBA rosters. It's difficult to project a player into the NBA in terms of the position he'll play and what round he'll be drafted on. John Salley of Georgia Tech is 7'0 and plays center. Can he be an effective forward in the NBA, which is where he will have to play? Roy Tarpley of

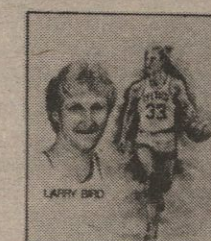
Michigan is 6'11 and falls into the same category. These are two of the top players in this year's draft. There just aren't as many absolutes in this year's draft as last year, which was an exceptional draft. Can a 6'5 forward in college play off guard in the NBA? Can a Division 2 or 3 player step up to NBA competition? With the advent of so many zones in college, it's even more difficult to evaluate a player, particularly his defensive ability. I find myself waiting to see a

player perform in a transition situation, where he must react instinctively, before I can get a true picture of his abilities.

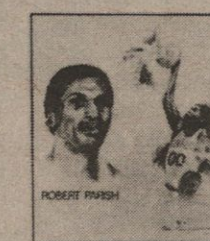
I have to rate each potential NBA player on a scale of 1-10 in approximately 30 categories. But what do I look for specifically? The first quality a player must have is talent, obviously. He has to be able to score some points. Can he shoot? Is he quick? Can he run? Does he make intelligent decisions on the court? Can he execute fundamentals? Chemistry is an important ingredient with the Celtics so I want to see how hungry a player is, how he relates to his teammates. How hard does he work? Is he willing to make the extra pass? Does he come from a winning collegiate program? The answers determine, for me, if he is a Celtics-type player. Finally, I list all the players I've seen, by position, in order, the best first, in preparation for draft day.

New England colleges have never been basketball "factories" for producing NBA players, but with the schedules B.C., NU, BU, HC, and Harvard play, there are plenty of people to see. The local talent? Keep an eye on Jim McCaffery of Holy Cross, Earl Kelly of UConn, Rodger McCready of Boston College, and Reggie Lewis of Northeastern to name just a few. I will.

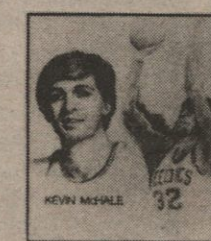
TOM HEINSOHN presents ...



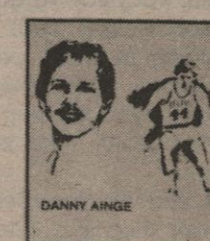
Larry Bird



Robert Parish



Kevin McHale



Danny Ainge



TOM HEINSOHN

LSC Art Productions is pleased to announce the release of the 1985-86 Limited Edition II portfolio containing four (4) lithograph drawings of Celtics basketball stars Larry Bird, Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and Danny Ainge by former Celtics player/coach Tom Heinsohn. Each lithograph is on 100% Archival Rag Paper and is hand signed and numbered by Tom Heinsohn. A certificate of authenticity will accompany each portfolio and is limited to 2500 sets. Definitely, a collectors item.

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Celtics Classics

1973-74

The End of a Bumpy Road

The 1973-74 season was a strange one indeed for the Celtics. After ruling the NBA for more than a decade, the Celtics found out they could no longer just go out on the floor and easily cop championships.

It had been five years since Boston's last NBA title, and with teams such as the Lakers, Bucks, Knicks, not to mention the emerging Buffalo Braves and Chicago Bulls, around, the road to titledom was bumpy.

Perhaps the biggest oddity of '73-74 was that possibility for the first time in Celtics history, unrest surfaced on the club. The Celtics struggled during the second half of the season, and some of the players were getting edgy. Coach Tommy Heinsohn was the focal point of the discomfort.

"It's like falling in and out of love with someone," said veteran forward Paul Silas, one of the most respected Celtics. "We have fallen out of love with Heinsohn."

The irrepressible Heinsohn didn't seem to mind the criticism.

"Sure the players are complaining," he said. "But you've got to realize this is rubber room time. The players are sniping at each other. They can't tolerate each other's smelly feet and they're looking for something to gripe about. It's a tough time of the season."

Smelly feet and all, the Celtics managed to finish atop the Atlantic



Heinsohn: back in love.

Division with a 56-26 record, six games in front of New York.

The playoffs then beckoned, with an opening-round match against Bob McAdoo, Randy Smith, Ernie DiGregorio and the Buffalo Braves. Boston had once beaten the Braves 21 times in a row, but Buffalo was no longer a downtrodden expansion outfit. This was a good, competent bunch of basketballers, and the Celtics took them seriously.

The teams split the first four games, each winning on its home floor. The Celtics took game five in Boston, 100-97.

A huge crowd gathered at Memorial Auditorium in Buffalo, hopeful that the Braves would again knot the series. That didn't happen, but it wasn't easy. Boston was leading, 97-88, with 6:24 left in the

game, but a pair of McAdoo dunks tied it at 106 with 20 seconds to play. Two free throws by guard Jo Jo White, fouled by McAdoo at the buzzer sealed the game and ended the series.

Another New York team--the Knicks--were next on the agenda. The Celts walked all over New York in the opener, 113-88, as John Havlicek had 25 points and 12 assists. Game two resulted in a second easy victory for Boston, 112-99.

The Celtics went on to win the series, four games to one. Havlicek was Boston's standout, shooting 41-70 from the field in the final three games. Even at 34, Hondo was still doing it.

"When he does that, no one can beat us," Heinsohn said.

Said Red Auerbach: "John is better than ever."

It would take nothing short of a supreme effort from Havlicek and his teammates to topple Boston's adversaries in the championship series--the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar-led Milwaukee Bucks.

"We have to press the Bucks if we want to beat them," Heinsohn said before the series opener. "If we stop pressing and let them get the ball into Kareem, we'll lose."

Boston didn't lose game one. Thanks to an air-tight defense which scuttled the Bucks attack, the Celtics emerged with a 98-83 win at Milwaukee. However, the Bucks came back to win two of the next

three games, including a 97-89 triumph in Boston in game four.

We're still going to win this thing," Heinsohn declared.

The Celtics drew a step closer to that in Milwaukee, with a 96-87 in the fifth game.

Game six, at the Garden, proved to be probably the most memorable game of the year. Milwaukee had a hefty lead in the third quarter, but the Celtics fought back to force an overtime. In the first extra session, the teams could manage just four points apiece.

Milwaukee received a big break when Cowens fouled out with 1:46 left in the second OT. With Cowens out, Havlicek became the fulcrum of the offense. A three-point play and a pair of side jumpers by Havlicek enabled Boston to take a 101-100 lead with eight seconds left.

But the Bucks weren't done yet, not by a long shot, or rather, a sky hook. With three seconds to play, Abdul-Jabbar launched a sky hook over Henry Finkel (Cowens' replacement), and the Bucks had a one-point edge. That was the game: Bucks 102, Celts 101.

With that win, the advantage shifted over to the Bucks. They were going back to their turf for a seventh game, and had to be considered the favorites.

But the Celtics apparently ignored the odds. Boston raced away to a 63-46 third-quarter lead. In the end, the Celtics had a surprisingly easy 102-87 win. Cowens performed brilliantly, with 28 points and 14 rebounds. Abdul-Jabbar wasn't at all a factor in the game, being held scoreless for 18 minutes during the middle of the game. Boston sagged on the Big Guy, giving the Bucks the outside shot. Since the Bucks weren't a strong shooting team from afar, the strategy worked to perfection.

The key play in the whole series? Havlicek's jumper from the side with eight seconds left in game six.

"It was one of the toughest plays I ever made, especially considering the circumstances," Havlicek said. "I was in the corner and had to shoot it so high, on such a exaggerated arc over Kareem. When he came out, the basket disappeared."

"I was fouled on the play--Jabbar crashed into me, but the referee didn't see it. His head was turned, watching the ball. Nobody saw the foul."

But the Celts had another championship in their pockets for the world to see.

Past and Present

Celtics Greats

"High Hank" is doin' Just fine!

HENRY FINKEL

It's been 11 years since Henry Finkel, the mustachioed 7-foot center known as "High Hank", last toiled for the Celtics. However, Finkel remains a fixture at Boston Garden.

"I go to every game," Finkel says. "I'm their biggest fan. The Celtics are the best show in town. They've got the best player ever to play the game in Larry Bird."

Finkel wasn't in Bird's class as a player, but he was one of the most popular Celtics ever to don the green and white. Even today, Finkel is still recognized by the locals at the Garden.

"I go to every game, I'm their biggest fan. The Celtics are the best show in town."

"It's tough to hide this mustache," Finkel says with a laugh. "It makes me feel good to be recognized."

Finkel's popularity as a Celtics helped launch his career after basketball. Shortly after Finkel was waived, during the 1974-75 season, a fan offered Finkel a job selling products for his company. Eventually, Finkel branched out on his own, starting his own firm (called Hank Finkel Associates), which sells office furniture. "High Hank" says things are going quite well.

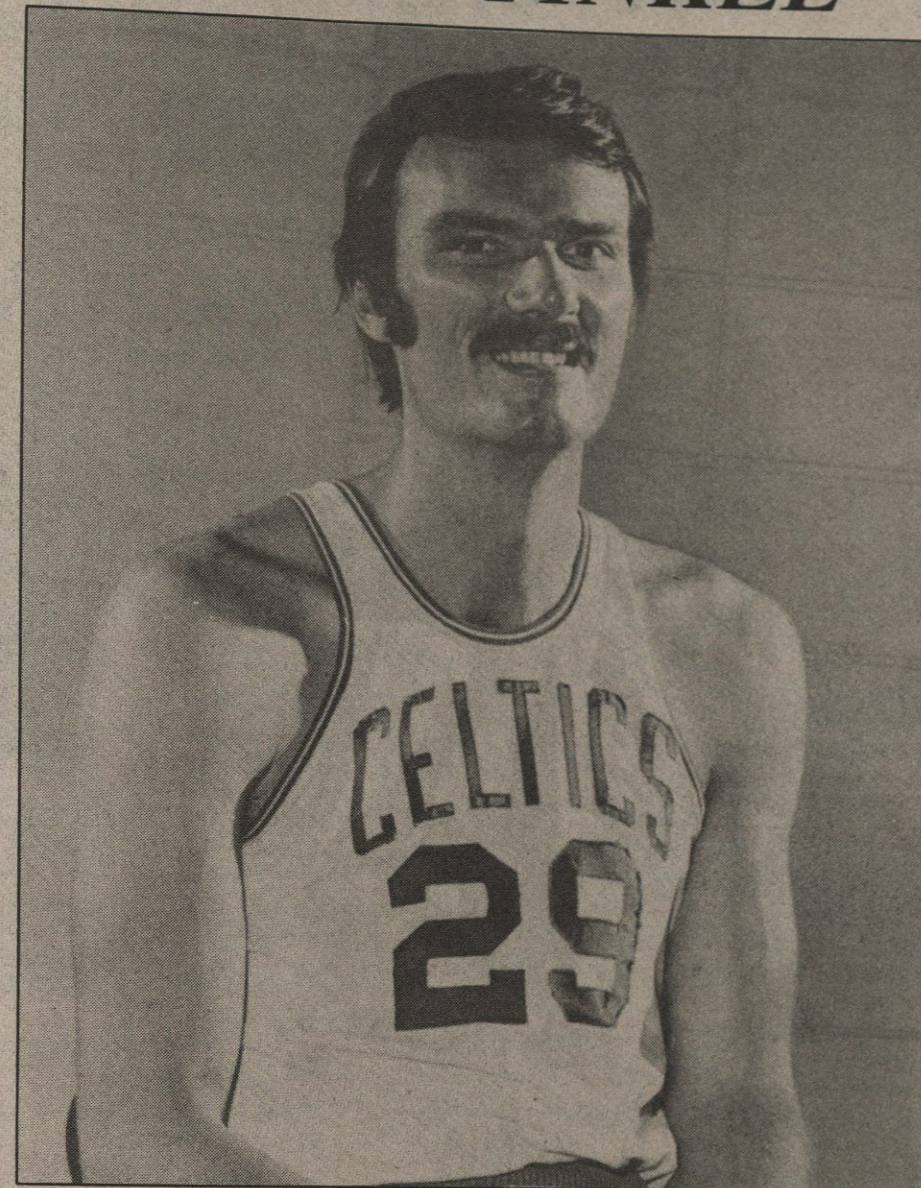
"I can't complain," Finkel says. "I'd rather be playing basketball. Other than that, I'm okay. I'm glad I have my own business. It's very difficult to work for someone else after a career in pro sports."

Finkel's NBA career began with the Los Angeles Lakers in 1966-67. The following season, he was picked up by the San Diego Rockets in the expansion draft. He saw considerable action with the Rockets in '67-68 and played well, averaging 11.6 points and 7.1 rebounds...The arrival of Elvin Hayes cut down Finkel's playing time quite a bit the following year, and he averaged just 3.7 points a game.

The Rockets traded Finkel to the Celtics prior to the start of the '69-70 season. That swap was music to Finkel's ears.

"Boston is the greatest place in the world to get traded to," Finkel says. "When Pete Newell (then the Rocket general manager) said I'd be going to the Celtics, my eyes lit up."

But Finkel's early days in Boston were anything but enthralling. Bill



Hank couldn't have had it any better.

Russell had just retired, and the Celtics were in the market for a big man in the middle. Finkel was deemed as the man who'd take over where Russell left off. Unfortunately, Russell happened to be an incomparable performer.

"I contemplated retiring," Finkel says. "Everything was on my back. I wasn't Russell. I didn't anticipate being thrown into the fire--I thought everyone realized how great Russell was. Russell was the best--no one could fill his shoes."

"I wasn't a Russell. Everybody was on my back, we didn't make the playoffs and the boom was lowered. Everything was thrown on my shoulders. I was considered the guy responsible to fill Russell's shoes. I just wanted to play basketball."

Luckily for Finkel, he had two very important members of the Celtics brass in his corner--general manager Red Auerbach and coach

Diego, he showed he could be a productive pivot with a decent amount of playing time. Would he have preferred playing elsewhere, where he might have been able to chalk up nice numbers, rather than being a career caddy in Boston?

"I would have had more playing time with a lesser team," Finkel says. "But there's nothing like playing for the Celtics--they're winners. There's nothing like it. I was an average player who lucked out. I wouldn't have wanted to have played anywhere else."

Finkel's days with the Celtics ended during a fateful day during the 1974-75 season, when Auerbach

"I was an average player, who lucked out."

told him he was being placed on waivers. That bit of news made the normally devil-may-care Finkel glum.

"I was broken-hearted," Finkel says. "That was the only bad thing about my career with the Celtics. A lot of guys say they're glad it's over and they're sick of the planes, the travel, the practices, but that's not Hank Finkel."

"I couldn't have had it any better. The Celtics were the epitome of a pro team."

"Then I looked at it rationally. I was 34 and over-the-hill, but I loved basketball. I was heart-broken."

The hurt didn't last very long, though, as Finkel was able to successfully move on to other endeavors. Finkel says had he not received the job offer from that fan, he would've returned to the San Diego area and resumed his teaching career. He was a substitute teacher when he played for the Rockets.

Now 43, Finkel's regard for the Celtic organization is just as high as when he was wearing number 29.

"It's evident that every player near retirement wants to come to the Celtics to win a championship," Finkel says. "It's not only the parquet floor or the championships, but the level-headedness of the management. There's no nonsense--everything is up front. Red tells you exactly where it is. It's easy and simple to play for this team."

And obviously, based on Finkel's regular attendance at the Garden, he finds his former club fun and entertaining to watch.



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